■ ENTERTAINMENT / A30
Guess list on Dollywood: This mother and daughter are feeding on illusion

■ WWW.INQ7.NET
Complete list of new doctors

■ WORLD / A8
Over 650 Iraqi Shiites killed in bridge stampede

■ NEWS / A2
Terrorists share bomb designs, say gov't reports

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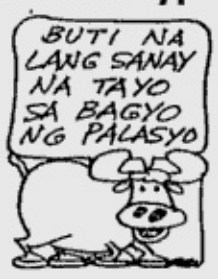
Colder 'ber months' here; 10 more typhoons expected



By Blanche S. Rivera

FILIPINOS should brace themselves for gusty days as storms are brewing outside Congress, too.

While a political storm is slamming the adminis-

COLDER/ A4

Caloocan bishop admits receiving Pagcor money

By Christian V. Esguerra

WHILE the powerful Roman Catholic hierarchy in the Philippines officially frowns on receiving money from gambling sources, at least one bishop admits using funding from the controversial Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor) for the benefit of the poor.

CALOOCAN / A4

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Thursday, September 1, 2005 ★★★ 48 pages / 4 sections / Vol. 20 / No. 265 P18
website: www.inq7.net

6 votes shy to impeach

President's men uphold Lozano case, then kill it

By Michael Lim Ubac

FIRST, pro-Arroyo lawmakers yesterday afternoon upheld the impeachment complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano and endorsed by their administration colleague.

With this move, the House justice committee effectively killed the amended complaint signed by 50 proimpeachment lawmakers.

The committee then voted to declare the Lozano complaint sufficient in form. By nightfall, the committee decided to kill the Lozano complaint as well.

The amended impeachment complaint lodged by the opposition met a "natural death" when the justice committee voting to declare that the first complaint filed by Lozano had barred the filing of the two others.

"That the impeachment complaint meets its natural death today is a logical result of the frail and enfeebled foundations upon which it was braced and propelled," said Rep. Antonio Cuenco, summing up the arguments of allies of President Macapagal-Arroyo to justify the trashing of the amended complaint and the Jose Lopez complaint.

Cuenco, chair of the House foreign affairs committee and member of the justice committee, said the majority should not be "faulted for exercising [its] constitutional mandate [to disallow] the amended complaint to be incorpo-

PRESIDENT'S/ A20

LYN RILLON

HOW CAN YOU TELL they're on a roll? Rep. Bienvenido Abante Jr. salutes colleague Benasing Macarambon Jr.; Rep. Eduardo Veloso beams with approval and justice committee chair Simeon Datumanong applauds heartily.

Opposition shoots for 79 solons by Monday

By Philip C. Tubeza and Michael Lim Ubac

RACING against time, opposition lawmakers yesterday said they had gathered 73 votes and needed only six more signatures to move the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo to immediate trial in the Senate.

Ms Arroyo's rivals walked out of proceedings on Tuesday in the House justice committee, sensing they would not gain headway in their initiative to unseat Ms Arroyo. Instead, the opposition concentrated on gathering support.

Rep. Edmund Reyes told the committee that the House secretary general had received 50 endorsements. In addition, Reyes said he had the names of 23 congressmen who had committed to endorse an amended impeachment complaint as soon as the 79 signatures had been obtained or committed.

"We will stick to the agreement not to reveal the names unless the 79 signatures are achieved," said Reyes.

"For the truth to come out, the Filipino people need six more members of this House to endorse this amended complaint. Just six more. Are only 73 members of the House on the side of the truth? Is there anyone else? Is

6 VOTES/ A20

Dozens hurt in clash outside Batasan

By DJ Yap and TJ Burgonio

DOZENS of people, including a young boy, were hurt yesterday after riot police used their batons to disperse militants who fought back by pelting the policemen with rocks in front of the House of Representatives where the justice committee was holding hearings on the impeachment complaints against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

At least 38 protesters were brought to the East Avenue Medical Center in Quezon City for treatment. Eight policemen, on the other hand, sustained bruises after getting hit by the rocks thrown by militants during the clash.

Most of the victims had minor scratches and bruises, but a number of them had open wounds in the head, Sanlakas president Wilson Fortaleza said.

One of those hurt was Vicente Vital, a 7-year-old boy who had accompanied his mother Lorna, an Akbayan member, to the demonstration, the protesters said.

Osang Palma, also of Akbayan and a neighbor of the Vitals, said the boy was just buying

DOZENS/ A20

REUTERS

BLOODIED AND BOWED, protesters flee after a clash with antiriot policemen who liberally used their truncheons to disperse a rally demanding the resignation of President Arroyo outside the Batasang Pambansa.

IN THE NEWS

3 impeachment complaints

THE FIRST complaint was filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano on the morning of June 27 and endorsed the next day by administration Rep. Rodante Marcoleta (party-list, Alagad). The five-page complaint said President Macapagal-Arroyo's silence on the "Gloriagate" tapes was an admission that she did rig the presidential election last year and therefore constituted a betrayal of public trust. In the evening of June 27, Ms Arroyo broke her silence with the "I am sorry" speech on national TV.

The second complaint was filed by another lawyer, Jose Lopez, on July 4. The 11-page complaint said Ms Arroyo's actions as shown in the tapes amounted to breach of public trust, malfeasance and misfeasance. It was endorsed by the President's party mate, Palawan Rep. Antonio Alvarez, on the same day.

3 IMPEACHMENT/ A7

Is this the end for anti-GMA forces in House?

By Philip C. Tubeza

IS ALL lost for the amended impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo? It depends on who's talking.

In the opinion of Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, the amended complaint cannot be revived even if the proimpeachment camp musters the 79 votes required for the Senate to start the impeachment trial.

Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitutional amendments and a member of the committee on justice, said that under the House impeachment rules, not even the 79 votes could overturn the committee's decision to entertain only the initial complaint filed by lawyer Oliver Lozano.

"The plenary cannot go beyond the committee report, and that report will be about the Lozano complaint. We cannot go back to the amended complaint," he said.

According to Jaraula, any article of impeachment to be constituted when the re-

IS THIS/ A20

Katrina fury sends oil prices surging back past $70

AP

AN EMERGENCY team in Bay St. Louis, Mississippi, rescues a family trapped on the roof of their vehicle due to heavy flooding at the height of Hurricane Katrina.

VIENNA, Austria—Extensive damage to oil platforms and refineries in the Gulf of Mexico sent crude oil prices surging back above US$70 on Wednesday as the realities of the long-term effects of Hurricane Katrina began to sink in. But the most pressing concern was gasoline.

Destruction to refineries churning out much of the unleaded regular and premium grade used in the United States was sure to sharply tighten already tight supplies, driving prices up not only on the trading floor but also at the pumps. *(See story in The World, Page A8.)*

In a reflection of what will soon hit car owners in their wallets, gasoline prices, which closed up 20 percent on Tuesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), continued climbing Wednesday. Unleaded gasoline was trading at US$2.5585 a gallon (3.8 liters) by midday in Europe, up more than 8 cents for a new record.

Heating oil fell marginally to US$2.0700 a gallon, reflecting expectations that US figures due out later Wednesday will show an in-

KATRINA/ A7

21st birthday saves day for Fil-Am family

SELAH, Washington—A family of immigrants from the Philippines is one step closer to being able to stay in the United States, thanks to a daughter's 21st birthday.

It was that birthday that allowed the parents of Stephanie Aganda, who moved their family to the United States in 1990, to recently file paperwork to obtain permanent residency.

Stephanie, who turned 21 on June 15, is a US citizen by birth, having been born here when her family was briefly in America before.

That allowed her to petition the government for a permanent visa for her parents once she turned 21.

21ST BIRTHDAY/ A7

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Batanes and Calayan group of islands will experience stormy weather while rest of Extreme Northern Luzon will have occasional rains with gusty winds and the coastal waters along these areas will be moderate to rough. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening. SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY ERIKA A. SARMIENTO, PDI RESEARCH/09/01/05

Second FRONTPAGE

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Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Terrorists share bomb designs

AL-QAIDA'S Southeast Asian ally is sharing bomb-making expertise with Muslim militants in the Philippines, providing at least nine explosive designs and eight chemical recipes to help ragtag insurgents become more lethal, according to government reports.

The results: 116 people killed in the Superferry fire, country's worst terror attack, a series of high-tech explosions and close cooperation among local and foreign militants using the southern Philippines as a training ground following the loss of al-Qaida camps in Afghanistan.

While US-backed offensives have overrun established camps in the Mindanao region in the last couple of years, training by al-Qaida-linked Jemaah Islamiyah's Indonesian operatives has continued on a limited basis with militants setting up classes and plotting attacks, police and military intelligence officers told The Associated Press.

One security official said Mindanao "is like a terrorist academy" with trainees taught how to make bombs, plant them, then set them off in test missions designed to help militants perfect their techniques to complete the course.

Jemaah Islamiyah militants appear to be continuously testing new designs and explosives mixtures, said officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the secretive nature of the information. Previously, many Philippine militants, especially Abu Sayyaf rebels, had relied on simple hand and rocket-propelled grenades to attack civilian targets.

Investigators looking into Sunday's bombing of a passenger ferry while it was boarding in Lamitan Basilan, injuring 30 people, said it appeared to be designed more to sow panic than kill, but that it was too early to speculate on the design.

A number of recent bombs – pieced together from fragments found at attack sites or recovered from Philippine rebel hideouts – carry Jemaah Islamiyah's signature: the use of electronics, including Indonesian-designed integrated circuit boards, and cell phones that allow more efficiency and flexibility as triggers, according to several investigation reports seen by AP.

Making detection difficult, the attackers use mundane items – a TV set, egg cartons, a tin of cookies, even a tube of toothpaste, a roll-on deodorant or shampoo bottle – to hide the bombs and their components.

More powerful chemical mixtures not used before by local militants also have been detected at bombing scenes in recent years, the reports said.

The new mixtures give the militants more leeway in attaining a particular effect. Some spark fires to scare extortion targets; others are designed to kill and destroy.

Authorities said they have detected evidence of al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah "training and technology transfer" in bomb devices for the past four or five years.

Such international cooperation and terror technology exchanges is not entirely new.

When police in 1995 raided the Manila apartment of Ramzi Yousef, the convicted mastermind of the 1993 bombing of the World Trade Center in New York, they found several juice bottles filled with the same powerful explosives used in that attack and a brand of quartz alarm clock later used in a bombing in Iraq.

Most of the bombs used in attacks in the Philippines and Indonesia are believed to have been designed by Jemaah Islamiyah's top experts, including Pitono, a Bali bombing suspect and electronics expert also known as Dulmatin, the reports said.

The army has been hunting for Dulmatin, along with at least nine other Indonesian militants, in the region of Mindanao, where he thought to have joined the group of Abu Sayyaf chieftain Khaddafy Janjalani, the military said. *AP*

Bombs of al-Qaida

- Feb. 14, 2005: Three bombs successively explode in Manila, General Santos and Davao, killing four and wounding 63.
- Dec. 24, 2004: A TNT bomb is found and defused inside a passenger bus in Manila's crowded Quiapo district. It included an electronic part commonly used by the Jemaah Islamiyah.
- March 2004: Three Nokia cell phone cases rigged with new chemical explosive mixtures are found in a mall in General Santos after they emitted smoke. The bombs had electrical circuitry designs used by Jemaah Islamiyah.
- Feb. 27, 2004: TNT packed in a TV set explodes and ignites an inferno that kills 116 people aboard a ferry in Manila Bay. Authorities say the bomb was a Jemaah Islamiyah design.
- March 7, 2003: A bomb in a backpack prematurely explodes in southern Tacurong City, killing a Muslim militant riding a motorcycle.
- Feb. 20, 2003: Several kilos of TNT powder attached to an electronic timer and rigged in the gas tank of a small van explodes near the gate of an airport in southern Maguindanao province, killing a soldier and wounding six civilians. Security officials say an Indonesian militant from Jemaah Islamiyah assembled the bomb.
- April 21, 2002: Three bombs simultaneously go off in General Santos, killing 14 and wounding more than 60. A number of suspected Abu Sayyaf members are arrested and charged; security officials believe Jemaah Islamiyah bomb expert Zulkifli personally led the attacks to retaliate for Al Ghozi's arrest.
- Dec. 30, 2000: Five bombs, including an explosives-rigged car, almost simultaneously explode across metropolitan Manila, killing 22 people and wounding more than 100.

Terror alarm raised anew

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG raised anew the terrorism bogey yesterday as it warned that Metro Manila could be the target of a new wave of terrorist attacks that could involve the weapons of mass destruction, dirty bombs, and biological weapons.

Similar to the global oil crisis threatening the economy, National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales appealed to the opposition in the midst of impeaching President Macapagal-Arroyo to treat the terrorist threat as very serious and that it required the full attention of government officials.

Gonzales said the government needed everybody's help, including the opposition's, because it was "virtually impossible to stop terrorist attacks." The President also appealed for the opposition's cooperation on the oil crisis because the government could not do anything about surging oil prices.

While the administration and the opposition lawmakers had cooperated very well before the current political crisis. Gonzales said that Congress has become too busy approving the anti-terror bill.

In a briefing, Gonzales claimed that his group had gathered "pretty disturbing information that terrorists might be planning a major attack in National Capital Region (Metro Manila)."

No chit-chat

"They are now in serious stage of planning a new wave of terror. We have to weigh consequence of either scaring our people or just keeping quiet with what we know," said Gonzales who preferred that the public continue to be scared but not to the point of panicking. Gonzales said his warnings were based on what they have picked up from intercepted communication among the terrorists ("These are not mere chit-chat") and monitoring of fund inflow and spending by suspected terrorists.

He said that terrorist attacks normally come in 6-month cycles and he expects the next wave to hit before the third week of September.

Gonzales said the authorities were worried that 400 kilos of explosives (supposedly part of the explosives cache of 600 kilos confiscated last February) could be floating around in Metro Manila and that some of the 10 Indonesian bombers suspected to be in the Philippines could have infiltrated the metropolis.

Gonzales said that if terrorists have the capability to detonate a 1,000-kilo bomb, this showed that they have been advanced in their technical capability to create more havoc.

Next range

"The next range would be using weapons of mass destruction. The Aussies have raised the possibility of dirty bombs which is easy to do – just put radioactive material in a 1,000-kilo bomb – and you know the effect of radioactivity when spread in the atmosphere. And of course, biological weapons. This is the next stage we are looking at," said Gonzales who suggested that the government urge an Asean-wide response program to contain terrorist threats.

Gonzales said the Philippines was a prime target for global terrorists, specifically the Jemaah Islamiyah, because of the country's close ties to what they considered as an infidel government, the US. "We are not only a training ground for terrorists, we are a target."

On suicide bombers in Metro Manila, Gonzales based his claim on "blind reports" that two Indonesians were sighted in crowded places in Metro Manila. However, Gonzales admitted that authorities have had difficulty tracking down the 10 Indonesian suicide bombers reported by the Indonesian government to be in the Philippines since it got the information a few months ago.

"It is not easy to track down tens out of millions of people. We don't know how they look, we don't even know their names," Gonzales said.

NDF panel may yet keep immunity, says Ermita

By Christine O. Avendaño and Blanche S. Rivera

THE GOVERNMENT may not suspend the immunity guarantees given to communist leaders which were supposed to expire on Sept. 2, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita said yesterday.

This possibility came after the government panel and the National Democratic Front panel started to talk again and actually met in Norway the other day through the initiative of the Norwegian government.

National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales said the outcome of the just concluded talks in Norway "appears, we might have formal peace talks."

The panel was due to arrive last night and Ermita said the government would know then what actually transpired in the talks.

Both Ermita and Gonzales said the NDF panel told the Norwegian representatives last week that there was no truth to reports that they were backing out of the peace talks.

Ermita said the government was forced to suspend the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guarantees (Jasig) last Aug.2 after NDF officials were quoted as saying they did not wish to negotiate peace further with the Arroyo government.

NDF chief negotiator Luis Jalandoni had told the INQUIRER that they would wait for a new government.

The government was set to lift the immunity guarantees given to NDF leaders on Sept. 3.

Gonzales told reporters the NDF had asked the government to defer the Jasig's suspension.

"So you might call this good news, and it's possible they want to continue to talk peace with us and thus, it's possible that the Sept.3 deadline we gave would not push ahead," Ermita said.

Gonzales, meanwhile, said he believed the NDF was going back to the negotiating table because the Arroyo administration has remained in power.

"This is my own view and I hope it will not affect talks," he told reporters.

The NDF yesterday warned against illegal arrests due to the "unilateral" suspension of the Jasig.

The Jasig protects NDFP negotiators, staff and volunteers from arrest.

Marissa Dumajug-Palo, head of the Joint Monitoring Committee secretariat who is also covered by Jasig, said there was increased surveillance of the JMC office in Cubao, Quezon City, and their residences.

"We take the GRP statements in the media very seriously," Palo said in a press conference at the JMC office yesterday.

The NDF had insisted that the Jasig was still in effect and that immunity for holders does not expire, because the government had not followed the procedure for terminating the immunity provided by the Jasig.

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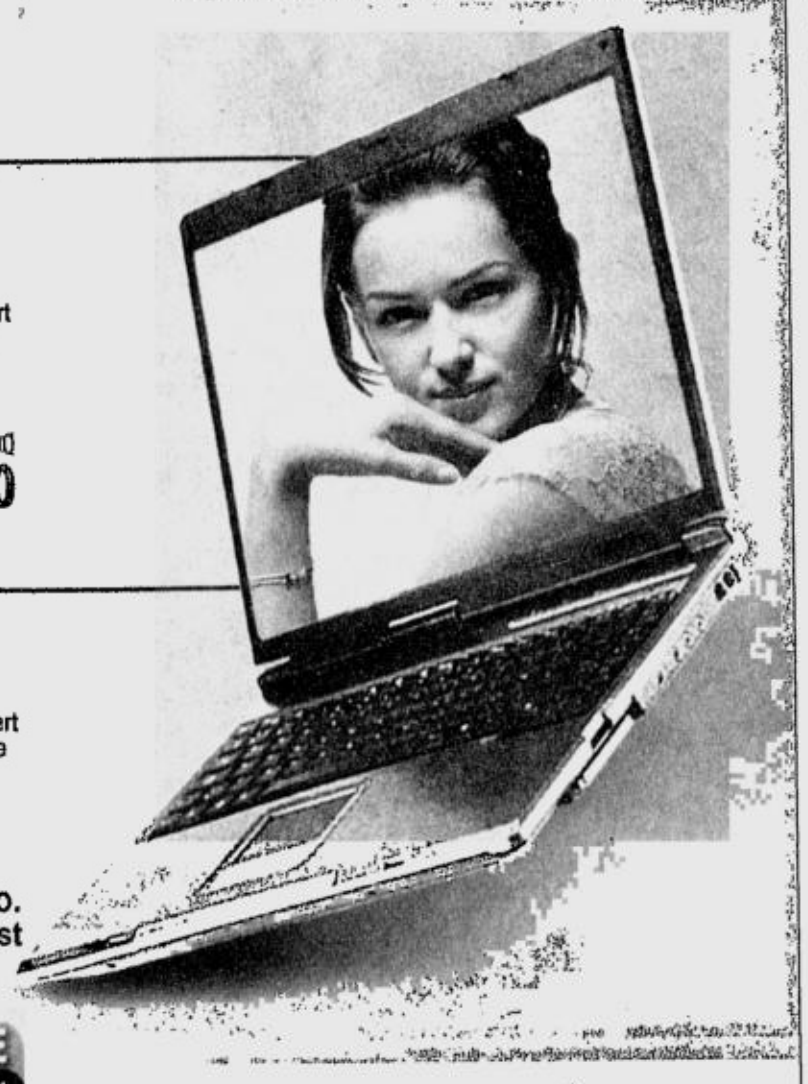

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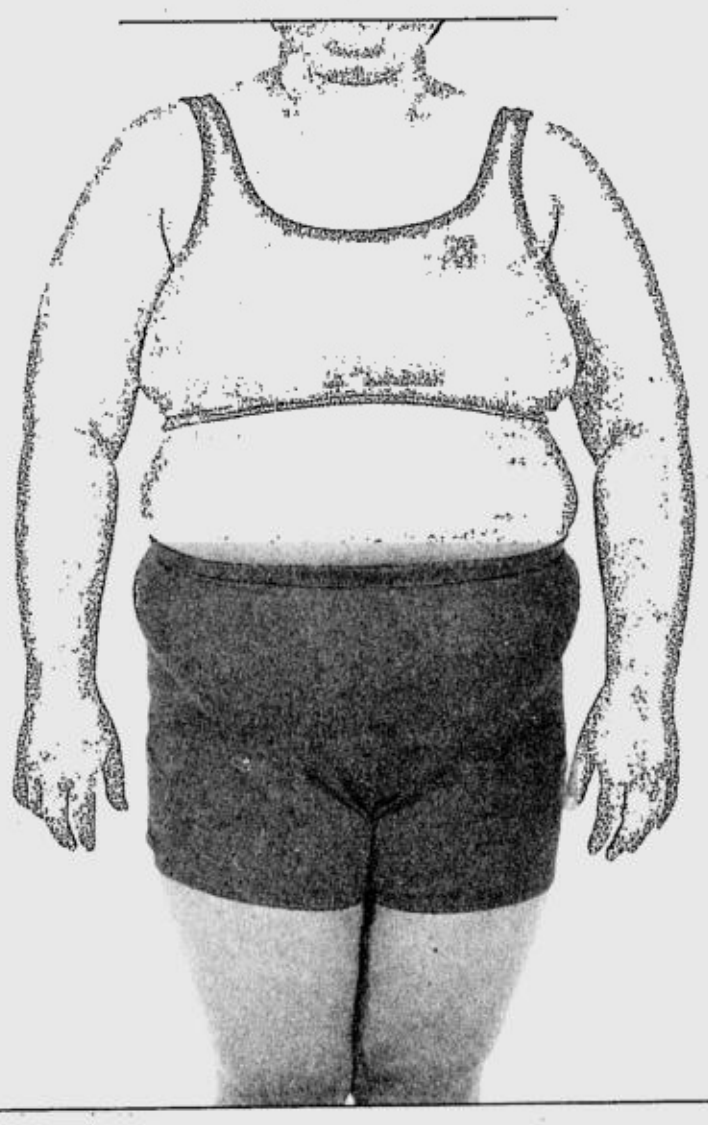

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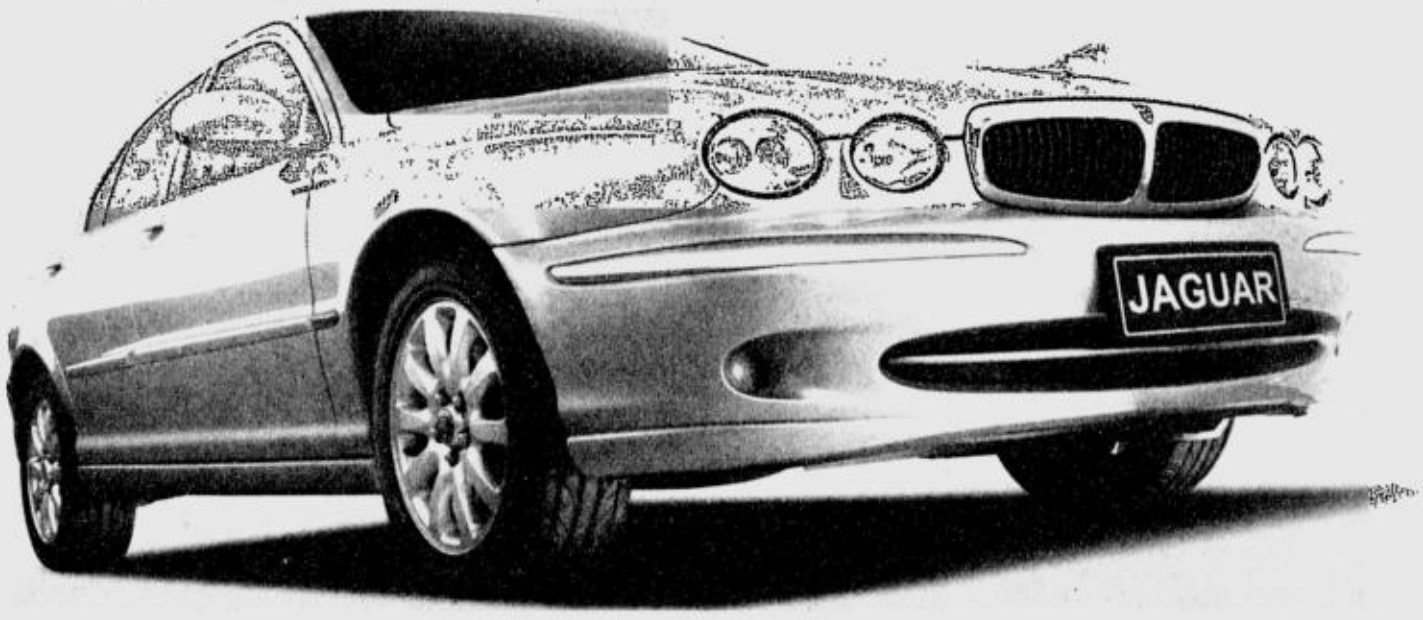

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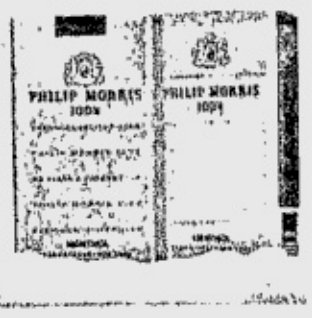

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'Way Kurat' sweeps up House mess

SOMEDAY, he just might earn the official title of "House janitor."

Compostela Valley Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora yesterday gamely played janitor in the middle of a tense-filled hearing of the House committee on justice on the impeachment complaint against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Scene stealers

Several minutes into the hearing, members of Akbayan party-list group and the militant group Sanlakas created a scene, rising from their seats, shouting anti-Arroyo slogans and flinging a sheaf of leaflets from the VIP section of the gallery.

As security officers dragged the hostile "scene-stealers" out of the gallery, Zamora, clad in a white T-shirt, denim jeans and rubber sandals, emerged out of nowhere, carrying a broomstick and a black garbage bag.

And without much ado, he picked up the leaflets strewn on the floor and stuffed them into the bag. And after he was done, he casually walked to a seat, seemingly unmindful of the otherwise serious hearing.

"Sir, where's your dustpan?" a security officer asked him in jest.

The sight of a Lakas congressman lugging a garbage bag and a broomstick on the floor elicited murmurs of laughter from the gallery, as well as unflattering remarks.

'Overacting'

"That's already OA (overacting)," a woman muttered, shaking her head on seeing the congressman.

But he was unfazed. "It's more degrading to throw garbage on the floor," retorted Zamora, who also made a scene during the July 25 State of the Nation of the President when he brought pots of calamansi seedlings into the session hall and placed them on the tables of colleagues to counter the peach roses distributed by the proimpeachment congressmen.

EVERY LITTER BIT HURTS Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" Zamora, who looks after the cleanliness of the House after his colleagues scatter papers all over the floor in disgust over the conduct of the justice committee hearing in the central gallery of the Batasan. LYN RILLON

Punch in the head

Elsewhere in the session hall, things were not amusing.

After being dragged out of the gallery, Rolando Guevarra of Akbayan threw a punch at Jessie Benjamin, a member of the legislative security bureau, hitting him hard in the head, witnesses said.

Guevarra was pacified by other security officers. Benjamin was likely not to press charges against his assailant in deference to Akbayan Representatives Etta Rosales and Risa Baraquel, according to his colleagues.

Earlier, Guevarra, Rusty Delizo of Sanlakas and another colleague rose from their seats, erupted into applause and chanted "Impeach Gloria" after Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes asked during the hearing if anyone else was signing the complaint, and nobody answered.

2 envelopes

In a manifestation, Reyes said he had with him two envelopes: one containing the names of 23 congressmen who he said had committed to endorse the complaint once the required 79 signatures had been gathered, and another containing blank endorsements.

"Is there no one else? Is there no one else to sign for truth?" Reyes asked, but got no reply from his colleagues.

There was calm amid the hectic going-ons in the House: Brother Eddie Villanueva prayed over "proimpeachment" lawmakers who snubbed the justice committee hearing.

Caloocan bishop admits getting funds from Pagcor

From page A1

"Yes, sometimes we receive financial help from Pagcor but it all goes to the poor through the Social Action Centers (SAC) of the Church," Bishop Deogracias Iniguez told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"Nothing goes to our pockets," Iniguez said, stressing that he was speaking only for his diocese.

Iniguez's candor seemed to contradict the position of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) against the Church receiving gambling money for its projects.

But Iniguez, a known critic of the Arroyo administration, described Genuino as "my friend." He was referring to Pagcor head Efraim Genuino.

"If they have problem, they call us," he said. "If we need their help, we go to them."

Iniguez said his diocese had come up with project proposals and presented them to Pagcor for funding. In some cases, he said the gambling agency would come up with the plan and submit it to his office.

The prelate from Caloocan dismissed Tuesday's suggestion by former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman that Church officials were wrongfully receiving Pagcor funds.

Soliman said that in the wake of an illegal gambling controversy that had implicated First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo in payoffs and forced him to go on voluntary exile, Cabinet secretaries had suggested that the President fire Genuino, who is perceived to be close to her husband.

Soliman said that during a meeting in June when the sacking of Genuino was brought up, Ms Arroyo reportedly snapped and said she could not get rid of Genuino. "He takes care of the media and the bishops," Soliman quoted Ms Arroyo as saying.

Pagcor has denied any shenanigans with its revenues. It said its funds were monitored by the Commission on Audit. Palace officials said the meeting in which Ms Arroyo reportedly made the remark never took place.

Soliman, six other Cabinet secretaries and three senior Palace aides quit on June 8 and called on Ms Arroyo to resign following allegations of fraud in last year's elections and charges her family received illegal gambling payoffs.

Culture of gambling

"The CBCP does not encourage this manner of helping the poor. It could easily be construed as approving and promoting the culture of gambling and thereby scandalize the faithful," it said in a pastoral statement in January 2004.

Davao Archbishop Fernando Capalla, outgoing CBCP president, yesterday reiterated this position in the wake of Soliman's allegation. He refused to comment further, saying "there is a need to determine the truth of that statement."

As a "general practice," Fr. Anton Pascual, head of all SACs under the Archdiocese of Manila, said the Church "does not accept money from gambling."

In cases where other prelates might have accepted financial assistance from gambling operators, Pascual said he was certain that the money had gone to Church-sponsored projects.

Manila Archbishop Gaudencio Rosales is passionately opposed to receiving donations sourced from any form of gambling, even if legal.

Botika ng Barangay

One program funded by Pagcor is "Botika ng Barangay," or village pharmacy, which gives Caloocan residents access to low-cost medicine, Iñiguez said.

He also said he did not mind accepting Pagcor money for projects like housing for squatters and rolling stores offering cheap basic commodities.

Msgr. Hernando Coronel, CBCP secretary general, said Soliman had apparently made the revelation in the "political context."

He said individual bishops would have to "justify morally" in acceptance of gambling donations even on "life-and-death" situations.

For instance, a patient in dire need of money for operation could seek the Church's help and in the process receive a hefty donation sourced from gambling, he said.

"The question is: Will the Church accept the money and help the patient live?" he said. "If a priest accepts it, he will be answerable to his conscience."

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Special Events Schedule

SEPTEMBER 1, 2005
Thursday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Promoting Effective Reading Skills: A Challenge to Librarians, Teachers and Students" by Philippine Association of Teachers of Library and Information Science (PATLS) & The Book Talk Society of the Philippines (BTSP)

10:00 A.M. - 11:30 A.M.
WTC Lobby
Seminar and Book Launching. New Age Learning by Pearson Education, Resource Speaker: Ms. Barbara Field by C & E Publishing, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Preserving Memories On Photo Tiles (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Seminar: NBDB Efforts Towards Quality Filipino Books by National Book Development Board

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Forum on Innovations and Strategy: "The Risk and Choice in Shaping User-Centered Libraries" Speaker: Mrs. Lourdes T. David, by Association of Special Libraries of the Philippines (ASLP)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Drawing Workshop for Kids with Mr. Noel Cabangon and Mr. Robert Alejandro by Ang Ilustrador ng Kabataan (INK)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Kiddie Art on Tiles (TTF)

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Popped Fish-Making Workshop (MP)

3:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Symposium on Copyright Law by Publishers' Representatives Organization of the Philippines (PROP)

3:30 P.M. - 4:30 P.M.
Function Room A
Product Launching: National Geographic Kids Products by Asia/Pacific Circulation Exponents, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Fun Hats Rubber Foam Workshop (INK)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation by Mowelfund Film Institute (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part I by Book Development Association of the Philippines (BDAP)

SEPTEMBER 2, 2005
Friday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Forum on "Environmental Health", Speaker: Ms. Chinchin Gutierrez by Medical and Health Librarians Association of the Philippines (MAHLAP)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room B
Forum on "Ethical Issues and Concerns in Collection and Development Management" by Philippine Booksellers Association, Inc. & Philippine Librarians Association, Inc.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Designing Souvenirs for Weddings, Birthdays, and Other Occasions (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Clay Molding (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:30 A.M. - 12:00 NN
WTC Lobby
The Making of Techniques in Digital Illustration (INK)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Symposium: Can a Reproduction Rights Organization (RRO) Curb Illegal Photocopying in the Philippines? by The International Federation of Reproduction Rights Organization & The Philippine Reproduction Rights Organization

1:00 P.M. - 2:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Discover and Explore: "A Must Classroom Reality in Science Literacy" A product seminar/workshop for Discovery ChannelSchool, Resource Speaker Charmaine Nicdao-Ramos, by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Story Telling and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

1:30 P.M. - 3:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Turning Ordinary Prints into Canvas Works of Art (TTF)

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Balloon Art Workshop by Lollipop Safety Balloons Center (LSBC)
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

2:30 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Storytelling Session and Paper Bag Puppets-Making Workshop (MP)

4:00 P.M. - 5:30 P.M.
Function Room B
Seminar on "Introduction to Singapore's Elementary Education Curriculum and Textbooks" by Ederisch International, Inc.

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Portfolio Show (INK)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Seminar on "Direct Marketing (DM): Back to Basic and Beyond (Design for Booksellers)- Part 2 (BDAP)

6:00 P.M. - 9:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline
2005 Grand Book Launch by OMF Literature, Inc.

SEPTEMBER 3, 2005
Saturday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Function Room A
Book Launching: Learning to Live and Love, Learningto Love, Love @ Sex Pag-Usapan Natin, Educational Guidance in Human Love, The Truth and Meaning of Human Sexuality by Word & Life Publication

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Story Telling Activity

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 2
Stone Printing: Paperweights and Desk Signs (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25.00

1:00 P.M. - 2:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
The Children's Library Storytelling Activity

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Lego Early Childhood/HCA Seminar by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: Nobela at Mga Making Kuwento ni Edgar Reyes, Introduction to Economic Botany Pythopharmacology-Phytotherapy by Dietmar J. Rummel, Language Proficiency Training for Call Centers by C & E Publishing, Inc.

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Crystal Lamination: Trinket Boxes (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Molding and Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

3:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Lego Robotics Demonstration by Felta Multi-Media, Inc.

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Dianetics Lecture by New Era Publications International Aps

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching: ANI 31 Metaphors of Love (Talinghaga ng Puso), GROOVY: The Colors of Pacita Abad in DVD by Cultural Center of the Philippines

4:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Hands-on-Activity (Discovery Channel Interactive) by Verve Multi Media, Inc.

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

5:30 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

6:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Function Room B
Book Launching of "LEGACY: One Man to Another, Exhortations to the Men of Today from Over 50 Respected Christian Leaders and Influencers" by Church Strengthening Ministry

SEPTEMBER 4, 2005
Sunday

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Activity Area 1
Crystalized Photo Frames and Magnetic Message Holders (TTF)

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 NN
Playstreet Story Telling and Bubble Demo (with admission fee)

10:00 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Basic Hair Cutting (BHFI)

10:00 A.M. - 8:00 P.M.
WTC Lobby
Science Fun Factory by Samahang Pisika ng Pilipinas
Admission Fee: Php 25

1:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Print Lifting Images to Cotton Drink Coasters/Mats (TTF)

1:00 P.M. - 5:00 P.M.
Playstreet Clay Moulding, Arts & Crafts (with admission fee)

2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.
Function Room A
Purpose of Life, Resurrection and Hereafter in Islam According to Qur'an and Risale-i Nur by Eternal Publications Trading

2:00 P.M. - 4:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
"Meditations & Music Reflections" Authors accompanied by invited musicians by Church Strenghtening Ministry

4:00 P.M. - 7:00 P.M.
The Makati Skyline
National Book Awards by Manila Critics Circle (by invitation only)

4:30 P.M. - 7:30 P.M.
Activity Area 1
Basic Animation (MFI)

5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M.
Activity Area 2
Reflexology Workshop (BHFI)

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Colder 'ber months' ...

From page A1

tration, at least 10 typhoons are expected to enter the country as the cold "ber months" start, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) announced yesterday.

Three storms would hit the Philippines in September, another three in October, two in November and at least one in December, Pagasa weather forecast chief Herman Ngohayon said.

"Isang is the ninth typhoon so far. The Philippines usually has an average of 19 typhoons a year, so 10 more are expected in this last quarter," Ngohayon said in a phone interview.

Pagasa has hoisted Storm Signal No. 2 over the Batanes and Calayan groups of islands, and Signal No. 1 over Apayao, Ilocos Norte and Cagayan Valley, because of Isang. The typhoon is slowly moving out of the Philippine area of responsibility.

Storm Nabi approaching

Even while Isang is hardly out of the country, Pagasa monitored another storm, with international name Nabi, moving toward Batanes. Nabi is expected to be in the Philippines by Friday night, according to Pagasa.

Ngohayon said the country was lucky because Isang did not hit as badly as it would hit Taiwan, where it is headed now. Nabi, on the other hand, is expected to head for Japan.

He, however, said the country would experience the same pattern of weather conditions that triggered flash floods, which killed and displaced thousands of families last year, some of whom remain homeless until now.

"It may not necessarily be duplicated, but we cannot predict at this point how strong or where exactly the storms will hit," he said.

Same areas

The weather forecaster said it was safe to expect that the same areas ravaged by successive typhoons in November last year, such as Quezon, Aurora and Nueva Ecija, would be hit by typhoons.

"The normal track of tropical cyclones in the last quarter of the year shows concentration in the Luzon area, particularly central and northern Luzon," Ngohayon said.

He said Pagasa gives climatological data to the National Disaster Coordinating Council to aid in its disaster preparedness.

The good news is that the night would be colder than those in the past few months.

Ngohayon said the average temperature in the next thee months would be a minimum of between 21 and 24 degrees Celsius and a maximum of 31 to 34 degrees Celsius.

Corrections

IN THE AUG. 28 issue, a photo caption in the Sunday Lifestyle section on Page D1 erroneously identified one of the Coffee Bean and Tea Leaf partners. The person on the right side of the top photo is Walden—not Melvin—Chu.

* * *

IN THE AUG. 30 issue, a table on Page A10 that accompanied the front-page story—"Oil firms earn billions of pesos amid crisis"—misstated the pump price of gasoline in the Philippines. The correct price is P32.93—not P39.98—per liter.

CONGRATULATIONS

TO ALL THE WINNERS OF THE 2004 JUNIOR INQUIRER AWARDS!

Best Editorial Cartoon

1ST Scouting for Attention/Entitlement by Aaron Charlie Co (Chiang Kai Shek College)
2ND Who Are We by Caitlin Joyce Uy (Chiang Kai Shek College)
3RD From the Heart by Elizabeth Ho (Chiang Kai Shek College)

Best Poetry

1ST Kung Alas-Singko Ng Umaga by Regina Ramada (Miriam College)
2ND The Ballerina by Jessica Clemente (Miriam College)
3RD Bakas ng Nakaraang Araw by Cher Marie Tuason (Miriam College)

Best News Story

1ST Malagos Garden's Amazing Bird Show by Sherwin Timothy Briles (Chiang Kai Shek College)
2ND An Amazing Scout Race by Kelly Li (Chiang Kai Shek College)
3RD The Great Jamboree by Harvey Armin Li (Chiang Kai Shek College)

Best Feature Story

1ST How Jerry's Attitude Affected My Life by Kelly Li (Chiang Kai Shek)
2ND Nostalgia, New Zealand, Lord of the Rings and the Ateneo Spirit by David Louis De Jesus (Ateneo de Manila Grade School)
3RD Gift Power by Cher Marie Tuason (Miriam College)

Best Short Story

1ST Gaining Patience by Julia Lagonera (Miriam College)
2ND The Great Escape by Carissa Pobre (Miriam College)
3RD Dita's Adobo by Vida Cruz (Miriam College)

School Paper of the Year

1ST Hoofprint (Lanie School)
2ND Scout Herald (Chiang Kai Shek College)
3RD Agustinian Mirror (Colegio San Agustin)

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20 top medical board examinations

ONLY 1,471 out of the 2,864 or 51.46 percent passed the recent Physician Licensure Examination given by the Board of Medicine in the cities of Manila and Cebu in August this year, the Professional Regulation Commission (PRC) announced last night.

The top 20 successful examinees are the following:

1. Jonah Lomibao Amora 85.17
2. Geraldine Tong Zamora 84.83
3. Patricia Dizon Salvador 84.75
4. Jeroselle Sta Cruz Ramos 84.67
5. Vincent George Lerma Cunanan 84.42; Shiela Sarmiento Macalindong 84.42; Noreen Reyno Manglicmot 84.42
6. Robert Ranet Arias 84.25
7. Angela Lim Yuchua 84.17
8. Michael Raymund Castañeda Gonzales 84.00
9. Victoria Dominique Chua Ang 83.92
10. Joseph Rey Cheng Dago-oc 83.83
11. Patrick Co Chua 83.75
MARVIN SIY SIH 83.75
12. Kevin Elbert Mansilla Perez 83.67
13. Kenny Si Seng 83.50
14. Angelo Dave Crisostomo Javier 83.25
15. Maridel Udarbe Orata 83.08
16. Ronaldo Rodriguez Patiag 83.00; Ronald Go Yebes 83.00
17. Leandro Antonio De Leon Bernardo 82.83; Genevieve Tan Co 82.83; Mylene Nonog Navarro 82.83
18. Marlene Anne Cabrera Pamandanan 82.75; Maria Theresa Caguioa Rabena-Pineda 82.75; Frederick Edward Lo Ramos 82.75; Emil Anthony Ty Say 82.75
19. Dexter Masangkay De Castro 82.67; Mark Ancel Guerrero Edang 82.67
20. Cherish De Villa Lorica 82.58; John David Regner Seno 82.58

Asian crusaders honored in Magsaysay Awards rites

By Volt Contreras

ONE FIGHTS cancer in India. Another one fights AIDS in Thailand. One trains his Laotian youths to be future leaders, while another helps the weak and unwanted of all ages in a South Korean city.

One has fought corruption through a watchdog group in Indonesia. The other wages a war against "acid-throwing" thugs through a newspaper in Bangladesh.

Honored for causes that are both diverse and connected, for multicultural yet universal achievements, the six Ramon Magsaysay Awardees for 2005 formally received their citations yesterday in formal rites at the Cultural Center of the Philippines.

Chief Justice Hilario Davide served as the guest of honor at the 4 p.m. ceremony of what is considered the Asian counterpart of the Nobel Prize, held annually in honor of the late Philippine president who died in a plane crash in 1957.

The Awardees were: Jon Ungphakorn, who won a seat in the Thai Senate on the vote of AIDS sufferers, their families and advocacy groups, and has since devoted his political life to securing them ample government attention not just in terms of medical treatment but human respect;

Dr. V. Shanta, who runs the 428-bed Chennai Cancer Institute in India, which either subsidizes or provides free treatment to 60 percent of its 100,000 annual patients. At 78, she still performs surgery herself and has published groundbreaking studies on the disease;

Sombath Somphone, the US-trained agriculturist and educator who in 1996 established a youth formation and livelihood center in Vientienne. Laos may be "cash poor," he said, but its wealth lies in its rich tradition and a "young population still unspoiled by mindless consumerism and commercialization;"

South Korea's Hye-ran Yoon was inspired to engage in social work after seeing her teenage sister expelled from school and becoming "suddenly adrift." Some 20 years later, she is now the most recognized civic leader of her home province Cheonan for humanitarian missions that benefit not only the youth, but also the disabled, mentally handicapped, the poor, and the elderly;

Teten Masduki is a ferocious graft-buster heading the Indonesia Corruption Watch, dubbed as "a clearing-house for information, corruption, collusion, and nepotism." The group solicits reports from the public, investigates them, exposes them in the media and compel authorities to act. Under his watch, the ICW has kept track of 432 graft cases involving a total of $580 million in government funds.

Newspaper publisher Matiur Rahman is also a hard-hitting critic of corruption and injustice, but one more recent phenomenon in Bangladesh has been added to his crusade: menfolk who throw acid on women who reject marriage proposals, couldn't pay dowries, or refuse to have sex. He said this shameful, still unexplained crime wave began in the '90s—and authorities have started to address it thanks to the extensive coverage given by his widely circulated paper Prothom Alo (First Light).

While the Nobel Prize tends to celebrate specific achievements in the sciences or humanities, the Magsaysay Awards consider the honorees' entire history, the challenges they faced, and the "motivation" behind the accomplishments, said RM Awards Foundation president Carmencita Abella.

First given in 1958, the Awards have since been conferred to over 200 individuals and institutions.

Palace suspends SEC commissioner

By Christine O. Avendaño and Elizabeth L. Sanchez

MALACAÑANG has suspended Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) commissioner Jesus Martinez for failure to settle debts which he incurred before joining the government.

Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday confirmed that his office issued a suspension order last Friday against Martinez for a case filed against him.

"While there is a finding for him to be suspended, it's not yet executory because you always expect the fellow to file a motion for reconsideration," Ermita told reporters.

Malacañang gave Martinez 15 days upon receipt to appeal the suspension order.

Ermita said Martinez could settle within the period his case where a court had asked him to pay the money he owed a foreigner, he said.

"(The order is) not executory until we shall have receive word that there was final settlement or none."

But both Martinez and SEC chair Fe Barin said yesterday they have not received the suspension order.

In an order dated Aug. 17, a copy of which was sent to the INQUIRER, Manuel Gaite, deputy executive secretary for legal affairs at the Office of the President, who signed the order, said Martinez was found guilty of dishonesty conduct prior to entering the government.

As penalty, Martinez will be suspended for one year effective immediately.

The order stated that refusal to pay the complainant is a "continuing act" that would warrant disciplinary actions even if the incident occurred before Martinez joined government.

Malacañang said public officials should observe the code of conduct and ethical standards "at all times."

As of press time, Martinez told INQUIRER he has not been served the order.

Martinez's predicament stemmed from a complaint filed in June 2004 by Dutch national Cornelis Lubberts for his alleged refusal to pay debts owed the latter.

Martinez was appointed to a seven-year term at the SEC on Mar. 14, 2002.

Before joining the SEC, Martinez had participated, organized and advised the formation of over 40 local and foreign corporations. As International Associate Member of the American Bar Association, he had established contacts with a global network of corporate practitioners and business groups.

Martinez is concurrently the oversight officer for the nontraditional securities department of the SEC or the unit that monitors the pre-need industry.

Lubbert's complaint against Martinez was endorsed to the Presidential Anti-Graft Commission on June 28, 2004. But, PAGC recommended its dismissal due to its limited jurisdiction over the case since it happened before Martinez entered government service.

The Office of the President decided to resolve the case since it has jurisdiction over the administrative complaint against Martinez since the latter is a Presidential appointee.

It said Martinez was capable of paying the loan with his annual salary. He was also directed to pay the complainant as soon as possible.

SC may issue VAT verdict today

CHIEF Justice Hilario Davide Jr. yesterday said the Supreme Court will try to resolve early tonight the "complex, controversial issue" that is the value added tax law.

In an interview yesterday, Davide said the court will be meeting at 2:30 p.m. to try to hold its fifth and final deliberation on the five petitions to declare the amended VAT Law unconstitutional.

"Tomorrow afternoon, we will be able to finalize the 'ponencia' and probably late in the afternoon—meaning before 6 p.m.—we can probably release it to the media," he said.

He said the justices want to "promulgate a decision ... that had been properly and meticulously deliberated upon."

He admitted that the deliberations have been "very intense ... because of the constitutional issues involved," coupled with matters pertaining to "tax legislation."

"We really have to spend time deliberating" on it, he said of the case that has dragged on for two months now.

The government claims that it was losing P130-million a day since the implementation of VAT was suspended last July 1. *Armand N. Nocum*

SAVE THE REPUBLIC, FOLLOW THE RULE OF LAW

CAVITE MAYORS DECLARE SUPPORT TO PGMA

In the light of the current political crisis faced by the nation, the Mayors of the Province of Cavite held an emergency meeting last July 12, 2005 at the Josephine's Restaurant in Kawit, Cavite.

After presenting and discussing their individual positions on the issues, twenty one (21) Local Chief Executives unanimously signed and issued a Joint Declaration of Support, to wit:

· THAT ALL ACTIONS EMANATING FROM THE MAYORS WILL BE IN ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTION
· THAT ALL ACTIONS WILL BE TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC AND THE PRESIDENCY
· THAT THE MAYORS WOULD SUPPORT ALL MOVES ON THE ISSUE FACING THE PRESIDENCY AS LONG AS THESE CONFORM TO THE RULE OF LAW.

As a sign of solidarity, the Cavite Mayors trooped to Malacanang last July 14, 2005 to present the said Joint Declaration of Support to President GMA. The Mayors were joined by Vice Governor Jonvic Remulla and the Vice Mayors of the different municipalities and cities of Cavite who similarly issued a Manifesto of Support to President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo.

Shown in the attached photo sitting beside President Arroyo are Bacoor Mayor Jessie B. Castillo and Tagaytay Mayor Abraham Tolentino flanked by Vice Governor Jonvic Remulla and other Mayors and Vice Mayors of Cavite.

A JOINT DECLARATION OF SUPPORT BY THE MAYORS OF THE PROVINCE OF CAVITE

In the light of the current crisis faced by the nation, the Mayors of the Province of Cavite held an emergency meeting. Each Local Chief Executive presented and discussed their individual positions to come up with a united stand on the issue.

Unanimously, twenty one (21) Mayors of Cavite reached a firm stand that the group would continue to follow the **RULE OF LAW** in all their actions, to wit:

- **THAT ALL ACTIONS EMANATING FROM THESE MAYORS WILL BE IN ADHERENCE TO THE CONSTITUTION**
- **THAT ALL ACTIONS WILL BE TO SAVE THE REPUBLIC AND THE PRESIDENCY**
- **THAT THE MAYORS WOULD SUPPORT ALL MOVES ON THE ISSUE FACING THE PRESIDENCY AS LONG AS THEY CONFORM TO THE RULE OF LAW**

As a sign of solidarity and support to the Presidency, the Mayors of Cavite hereby affix their signatures to this Joint Declaration of Support this 12th day of July 2005 at the Josephine's Restaurant in Kawit, Cavite.

JESSIE B. CASTILLO
Bacoor

FILOMENO C. MALIGAYA
Magallenes

BERNARDO S. PAREDES
Cavite City

MONTE A. ANDAMAN
Maragondon

LOPE TEPORA
Indang

MANUEL ROMERA
Mendez

CONRADO LINDO
Ternate

WALTER ECHEVARRIA
General Mariano Alvarez

FEDERICO POBLETE
Kawit

DANILO C. BENCITO
General Aguinaldo

ARLYNN TORRES
Noveleta

JOSE D. PINANO
Alfonso

EFREN C. NAZARENO
Naic

HOMER T. SAQUILAYAN
Imus

LUIS A. FERRER IV
General Trias

MELENCIO SAGUN, JR.
Trece Martires City

ABRAHAM TOLENTINO
Tagaytay City

DAHLIA LOYOLA
Carmona

RENATO ABUTAN
Rosario

CLARITO POBLETE
Silang

RAYMUNDO DEL ROSARIO
Tanza

ADVT

Katrina fury sends oil prices surging back past $70

From page A1

crease in stocks—and hopes that production shortfalls left by Katrina will be remedied ahead of the Northern Hemisphere winter.

The US Minerals Management Service said Tuesday that 95 percent of the Gulf of Mexico's oil output was out of service, with more than 4.6 million barrels of production lost since Friday.

Light, sweet crude for October delivery rose as high as US$70.65 a barrel on the Nymex by midday in Europe before slipping back to US$70.35, up 54 cents. Futures had risen to an intraday record of US$70.85 on Tuesday before settling at US$69.81, a record close since trading began on the Nymex in 1983.

October Brent crude was up 45 cents to US$68.02 a barrel on London's International Petroleum Exchange.

60 percent higher

Oil prices are now more than 60 percent higher than a year ago, although still below the inflation-adjusted high of about US$90 a barrel that was set in 1980.

Still, with gasoline supplies already tight before the storm hit, analysts suggested that additional troubles caused by refinery shutdowns would be of most concern to US drivers already beset by high prices.

"Crude is a sideshow here," said Paul Hornsnell, head of energy research at Barclays Capital in London. "We were expecting gas to spike even before the storm hit because the situation was already very very tight—refineries were having trouble increasing production and inventories were (already) at a 20-month low—and that was last week."

Eight refineries were shut down due to Katrina—half of them producing gasoline. Vienna's PVM Oil Associates additionally reported at least three others flooded and power failures sidelining others for an unknown length of time.

30-million-barrel loss

Hornsnell said the damage translated into an estimated 30-million-barrel loss in gasoline output—a problem that cannot be solved by increasing crude production or siphoning off oil from the US Strategic Oil Reserve, two possible solutions being offered.

"What's Opec supposed to do here?" he asked, of recent pledges by key members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries to up the amount of oil being pumped.

The Strategic Petroleum Reserve is America's emergency supply of 700 million barrels of crude oil buried in salt caverns in Texas and Louisiana.

US President George W. Bush is expected to authorize the release of just enough oil from the reserve to help make up for production losses directly related to the powerful storm, with a stipulation that oil companies replace the oil later with a larger quantity.

Even without the damage by Katrina factored in, the US Department of Energy's midweek petroleum data snapshot later Wednesday was expected to show another drop in gasoline inventories, primarily from the summer driving season.

Crude and distillate stocks were likely to rise. Katrina's influence on US stocks will only be realized in next week's report but some analysts already claim to know the score—even if the Bush administration taps the nation's crude oil stockpile to help refiners.

No upside

"In the next few months, there's no upside," said economist Mark Zandi of Economy.com, an economic consulting service. "And this winter, we're going to feel it more noticeably as people pay record gas prices and record home-heating bills."

Other commodities also were affected by Katrina's fury.

Royal Dutch Shell Plc.'s mammoth Mars platform appeared to be potentially the largest Katrina casualty, with aerial photos showing significant damage to the top of the facility that normally churns out 220,000 barrels of crude and 220 million cubic feet of natural gas a day.

The US Minerals Management Service said 88 percent of natural gas output was shut down, resulting in a loss of 25.4 billion cubic feet of lost production since Friday.

Energyintel analyst Tom Wallin said natural gas supplies were probably hurt more by Katrina's wrath than crude output.

"Crude oil production could be replaced by a release of barrels from the US strategic reserve, there is no such safety valve for natural gas," he said. "For gas, the fear is that commercial stocks could be severely dented, leaving inadequate inventories for the winter."

Natural gas futures spiked 41 cents to US$12.070 per 1,000 cubic feet after earlier touching a record intraday price of US$12.30. *AP*

21st birthday saves day for Fil-Am family

From page A1

The fight to stay in the United States has been going on for 10 years for the Agandas, but has taken on new importance since Judy Aganda was diagnosed with brain cancer.

10-year struggle

Earlier this year, the federal government extended the family's stay in the United States for humanitarian reasons.

But the extension wasn't permanent and the family was well aware that their days in the United States could be numbered.

"We've turned in the paperwork at the immigration office in Seattle, and last weekend we went over and had our fingerprints taken," Judy Aganda said last week.

The Agandas were not told how long the process would take, but they hope their green cards—identifying them as legal US residents—will arrive in the next few months.

Tourist visas only

After that, Judy and Tomas Aganda will be eligible to apply for citizenship in three years, according to Stephanie Aganda. She recently started her senior year at Washington State University where she is majoring in zoology.

Once the Aganda couple receive citizenship, they can petition for a visa for daughter Jennlynn, a senior in high school. The couple's two sons—a student majoring in chemistry at WSU and a WSU graduate now working as a registered nurse—are working through the citizenship process on their own.

The Agandas, who entered the United States on tourist visas in 1990, opened a dry cleaning store in Selah and sought to stay.

Tourist visas only

They filed for political asylum in 1993, but were denied and lost a subsequent appeal to the 9th US Circuit Court of Appeals in 2001.

A US District Court judge granted a 60-day stay of the family's deportation order in 2003 after attorneys representing Judy Aganda argued her health would not permit her to be deported. The stay was extended several times.

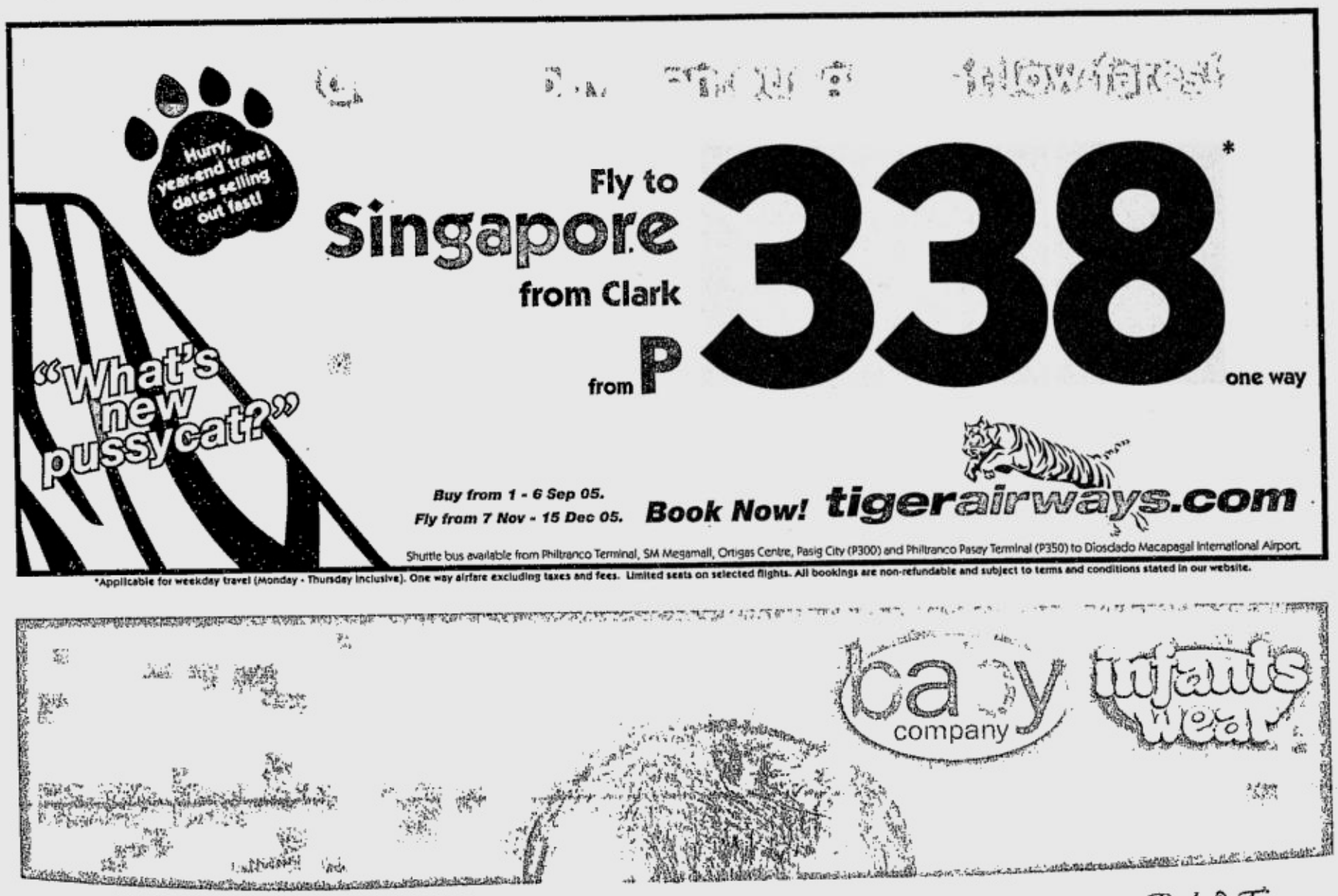
Judy Aganda also said the latest tests on her brain tumor look promising enough that she does not need additional treatment now. *AP*

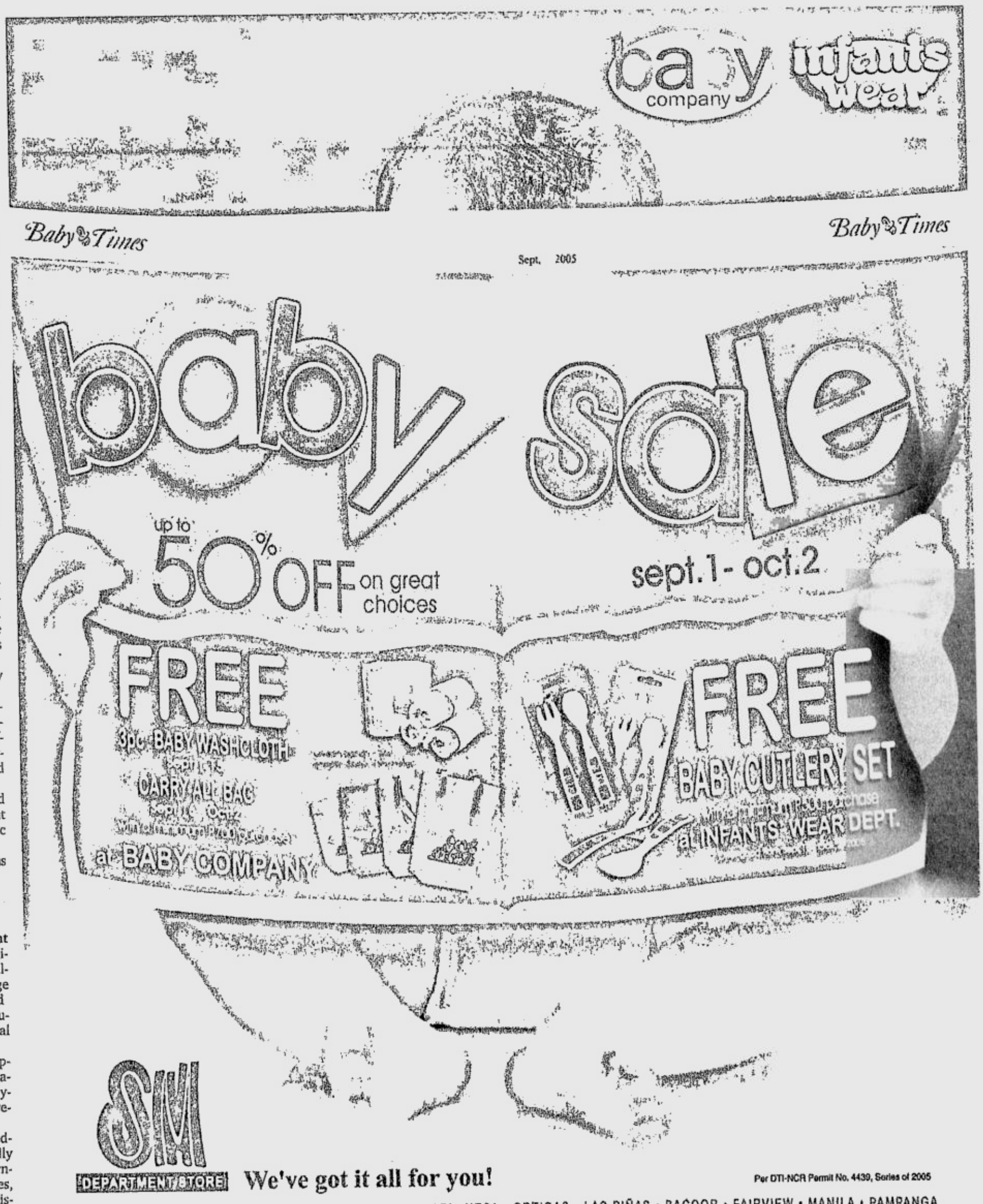
3 impeachment . . .

From page A1

The third or amended Lozano complaint was filed July 25, the morning of the President's State of the Nation Address, and initially endorsed by 42 lawmakers. The 55-page complaint alleged that Ms Arroyo committed

- "Culpable violations of the Constitution—by directing and/or allowing electoral fraud.
- "Acts of bribery and graft and corruption—by approving contracts disadvantageous to the public, accepting "jueteng" payola, and allowing the use of government resources to promote her candidacy in 2004.
- "Betrayal of the public trust—by impeding investigations into offenses allegedly committed by her family, by concealing ownership of various properties and businesses, and by infringing the rights of political dissenters, even to the point of providing impunity to their killers. *Jamie Alarcon, PDI Research.*





PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2005

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

650 Iraqi Shiites killed in Baghdad bridge stampede

BAGHDAD—About 650 people were killed in a stampede on a bridge Wednesday when panic engulfed a massive Shiite religious procession amid rumors that a suicide bomber was about to attack, officials and a survivor said. It was the single biggest loss of life in Iraq since the March 2003 invasion.

Scores jumped or were pushed to their deaths into the Tigris River, while others were crushed in the crowd. Most of the dead were women and children, Interior Ministry spokesperson Lt. Col. Adnan Abdul-Rahman said.

Tensions already had been running high in the procession to Baghdad's heavily Shiite Kazimiyah district because of a mortar attack two hours earlier against the shrine where the marchers were heading.

The shrine was about two kilometers from the bridge. Shiite processions, which can draw crowds of more than a million, are often targeted by Sunni extremists seeking to trigger sectarian war so worshippers are on guard for trouble.

One survivor said panic ensued when a rumor spread that a suicide bomber was in the crowd.

Abdul-Rahman said 648 were killed and 322 injured, although other figures from official sources varied as authorities struggled to count the dead scattered in numerous hospitals.

Most of the dead were women and children, Abdul-Rahman said. Survivors were rushed in ambulances and private cars to several hospitals and officials were scrambling to compile an accurate figure.

After the collapse, bare-chested men swam through the muddy river looking for bodies.

"We were on the bridge. It was so crowded. Thousands of people were surrounding me," said survivor Fadhel Ali, 28, barefoot and soaking wet after swimming in the river. "We heard that a suicide attacker was among the crowd. Everybody was yelling so I jumped from the bridge into the river, swam and reached the bank. I saw women, children and old men falling after me into the water."

Health Minister Abdul-Mutalib Mohammed told state-run Iraqiya television that there were "huge crowds on the bridge and the disaster happened when someone shouted that there is a suicide bomber on the bridge."

"This led to a state of panic among the pilgrims and they started to push each other and there was many cases of suffocation," he said.

Scores of bodies covered with white sheets lay on the sidewalk outside one hospital because the morgue was jammed. Many of them were women dressed in black gowns, children and old men. *AP*

Hurricane death toll surges past 100

NEW ORLEANS—Hellish scenes of death, damage, and chaos wracked the US Gulf Coast on Wednesday as overwhelmed authorities tried to rescue the living and count the dead amid the destruction left by powerful Hurricane Katrina.

New Orleans was filling with water after an initial attempt to stop a leaking levee failed, while police fought a losing battle to stop widespread looting in the stricken city.

In Mississippi, officials confirmed that at least 100 people had died in the killer storm and said the death toll was almost certain to go much higher. "We're just estimating, but the number could go double or triple from what we're talking about now," a civil defense director told the Jackson, Mississippi Clarion Ledger.

Biloxi, Mississippi, spokesperson Vincent Creel earlier told Reuters of the death toll: "It's going to be in the hundreds."

US Sen. Mary Landrieu told reporters she had heard at least 50 to 100 people were dead in New Orleans, where rescue teams were so busy saving people stranded in flooded homes they had to leave bodies floating in the high waters.

Louisiana officials said 3,000 people had been rescued, but many more were waiting to be picked up by rescuers in boats who cruised up and down flooded streets or helicopters buzzing overhead. "I'm alive. I'm alive," shouted one joyous woman as she was ferried from a home nearly swallowed by the rising waters.

Katrina struck Louisiana on Monday with 224 kph winds, while slamming into the coasts of neighboring Mississippi, Alabama, and western Florida.

A 10-meter storm surge in Mississippi wiped away 90 percent of the buildings along the coast at Biloxi and Gulfport, leaving a scene of destruction that Mississippi Gov. Haley Barbour said was "like there'd been a nuclear weapon set off."

New Orleans at first appeared to have received a glancing blow from the storm, but the raging waters of Lake Pontchartrain tore holes in the levee system that protects the low-lying city, then slowly filled it up.

Mayor Ray Nagin said 80 percent of the city, much of it below sea level, was covered with water that was in places 6 meters deep.

The US Army Corps of Engineers and local levee workers tried, but failed on Tuesday to stem the flow from a 60-meter long breach near the city center with 1,360-kg sandbags brought in by helicopter. Corps senior project engineer Al Naomi said they would bring in more sandbags on Wednesday and perhaps build a temporary dam around the breach.

But the biggest ally in the fight to save the city may be nature itself, he said.

"The flow has pretty much eased mainly because the lake is dropping in elevation," Naomi told Reuters.

In 36 hours, the lake, which was whipped high by the storm, should return to normal levels and the water now flooding New Orleans would begin to drain, Naomi said.

He said the historic French Quarter, the hallmark of New Orleans and the main draw for its huge tourist industry, should escape with only minor flooding because it sits 1.5 meters above sea level.

The floods knocked out electricity, contaminated the city water supply and cut off most highway routes into New Orleans.

A million people fled before Katrina arrived, but those who stayed were running out of food and water.

Wild scenes of looting erupted around the city as people broke into stores to grab supplies, but also television sets, jewelry, clothes and computers. *Reuters*

RESIDENTS climb over debris in Biloxi, Mississippi, Aug. 30 after their house was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina. AFP

US air strikes kill 56

BAGHDAD—US air strikes on suspected al-Qaida hideouts in Iraq near the Syrian border killed at least 56 people, an Iraqi security source said, as Sunnis organized to defeat a draft constitution.

US ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad, meanwhile, said that changes to the draft constitution were still possible, raising the hopes of Iraq's disgruntled Sunni Arabs.

The move came as the Sunnis, whose community is believed to form the backbone of the raging insurgency, were seeking alliances to defeat the charter in an Oct. 15 referendum.

"At least 56 people were killed in the air strikes carried out by US forces near Qaim close to the Syrian border," a security source told AFP.

The US military said it had no exact number of casualties.

"There was a total of three strikes targeting terrorist safe houses ... Abu Islam and several associates are believed killed," a US military spokesperson in Baghdad said, referring to a reported al-Qaida operative.

Abu Islam was holed up around Karabila near Qaim, 450 km west of Baghdad, he added.

The US military launched similar strikes Friday against another suspected al-Qaida hideout also in the restive Al-Anbar province of western Iraq.

Around 50 militants associated with al-Qaida frontman in Iraq, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, were in a safe house in the border town of Husaybah at the time, the military said without providing details of casualties. *AFP*

Killer storm Katrina stops presses, broadcasts

WITH their offices and presses flooded, news media outlets in New Orleans mostly abandoned newsprint and television broadcasts on Tuesday and set up shop on the Web.

The Times-Picayune, whose daily circulation is 270,000, put out only an electronic edition on Tuesday with a one-word headline summing up the impact of Hurricane Katrina: "Catastrophic."

A morning update on the website said The Times-Picayune was evacuating its building in New Orleans and that staff members were heading for Houma, a bayou town about 60 miles to the west. The newspaper's office phones and its e-mail system went dead.

Only one of the four local television stations, WWL Channel 4, a CBS affiliate, has been able to stay on the air throughout the last few days. Channel 4, owned by the Belo Corp., used a tower and transmitter at the company's new facility in Gretna, La., and also sent journalists to the communications center at Louisiana State University in Baton Rouge, more than 75 miles away.

Two other stations, WNOL Channel 38, a WB affiliate, and WGNO Channel 26, an ABC affiliate, went off the air and relied on their websites, which featured weather updates, video footage, and advice for coping with the disaster.

"What we've done in the interim is use the websites of both stations to get news to viewers and employees," said Gary Weitman, a spokesperson for Tribune Broadcasting, which owns the stations.

WDSU Channel 6, an NBC affiliate, moved its operations to two sister stations, one in Jackson, Mississippi, and another in Orlando, Florida. With some interruptions, it got back on the air and presented news and weather programming on its website as well. "The Web played a big role in all of this," said Tom Campo, a spokesperson for Hearst-Argyle, the station's owner. *New York Times*

Russia, Iran, N. Korea, Syria have bio weapons – US report

WASHINGTON—A State Department report released says evidence indicates that Russia, Iran, North Korea and Syria continue to maintain biological weapons programs.

The report said China maintains "some elements" of an offensive biological weapons program. The study said US government experts were divided on whether Cuba is trying to develop a capability of using the weapons.

All six countries had been linked previously in varying degrees to BW programs.

The study, mandated by Congress and released Tuesday, assesses compliance by foreign countries with arms control, nonproliferation and disarmament agreements. It covers developments over a two-year period ending in December 2004.

The 108-page report assesses the situation in individual countries on all aspects of weapons of mass destruction—nuclear, chemical and biological. It also reviews missile proliferation and the status of compliance with agreements on conventional forces in Europe, among other defense issues.

The study does not examine nuclear programs in Pakistan, India and Israel because none is a member of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and have not undertaken obligations to comply with the treaty's terms.

While the focus of international concern lately has been on the nuclear ambitions of Iran and North Korea, less attention has been paid to biological weapons.

A senior official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity said BW proliferation is a strong US concern.

As of December 2003, 151 countries had ratified the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention. An additional 16 countries had signed but not yet ratified the convention.

The cases the report dealt with were limited to those countries for which the most evidence exists of actual or potential noncompliance.

It reviewed the situations in Libya and Iraq, noting that the BW programs in both countries had been eliminated in 2003.

The findings in the report on six other countries whose BW programs were reviewed:

China—The United States reaffirms its judgment that China "maintains some elements of an offensive BW capability" in violation of its commitments under the convention.

Cuba—Some US government analysts continue to believe that Cuba has at least a "limited offensive BW research and development effort." Others say it is unclear whether any such effort exists.

Iran—Based on "all available information," Iran has an offensive BW program.

North Korea—US analysts believe that North Korea has a "dedicated, national-level effort to develop a BW capability." *AP*

Princess Diana still favorite topic

LONDON—Interest in Princess Diana is still strong eight years after her death in a Paris car crash, with trinkets and gossip fetching bundles of cash for those willing to exploit her legacy.

Fueling the public's appetite for the "People's Princess," a definitive British police investigation into how she died will once more throw her name into the spotlight when it concludes, possibly later this year.

Diana, 36, and her lover Dodi al-Fayed were killed along with their chauffeur when they crashed in a Paris tunnel on Aug. 31, 1997.

Her sudden death triggered a global outpouring of grief and boosted an already thriving "Diana industry."

Beautiful, graceful and caring, the young blonde became an icon after she married Britain's heir to the throne Prince Charles in July 1981 and went on to give birth to princes William and Harry.

Her high-profile divorce 15 years later did nothing to dent her popularity, and news and photographs of her glamorous lifestyle and personal problems filled newspapers on a daily basis.

When Prince Charles remarried partner Camilla Parker-Bowles in April, mugs, towels, key-rings and postcards of Diana outsold any of the new royal nuptials.

"Diana's brand is still the one which sells the best," said a souvenir shop owner in Windsor, west of London, where Charles' second wedding took place.

There is no official figure of how many billions of Diana trinkets have been sold, but most spin-offs have been a success. The princess was even revived from the dead to appear as a super heroine in cult US comic strip X-Statix.

"Candle in the Wind," a song by Elton John in September 1997 following her death, sold 31.8 million copies to become the biggest-selling hit of all time.

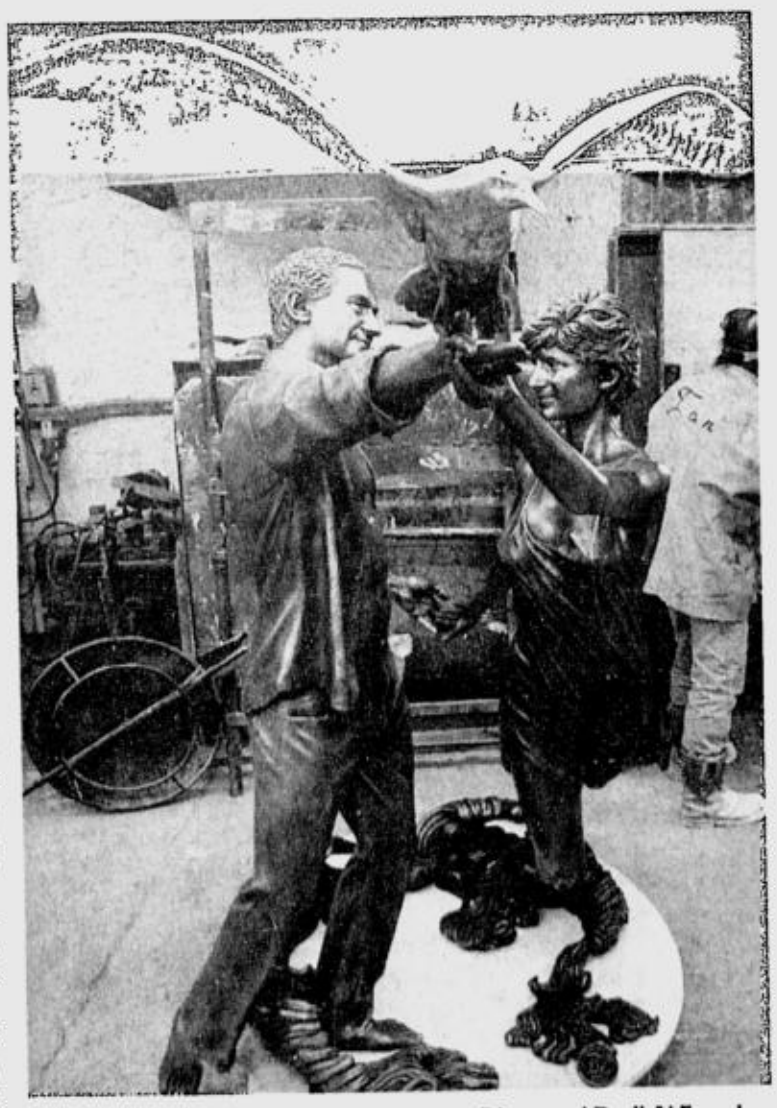
Described in an editorial in the Daily Mirror tabloid as the "grief industry," interest in Diana has also spawned hundreds of "exclusive" biographies by people who claim to have been close to her.

Each new exposé wins the author wild sums of money from newspapers desperate to publish extracts.

In November, the Daily Mirror handed Diana's former butler Paul Burrell 300,000 pounds ($535,000) for his exclusive testimony. Eleven month later, Burrell sold the same tabloid extracts of his book about the princess for an undisclosed sum as part of a carefully orchestrated media campaign to maximize on his self-acclaimed intimate knowledge.

The impact of the deal was enormous. The Mirror sold one million supplementary copies within the space of a week.

Stories from those who were close, or even distant, acquaintances of Diana fetch the highest price and people are free to tell them without fear of infringing Britain's strict libel laws because the princess is dead. *AFP*



A LIFE-SIZE sculpture of the late Princess Diana and Dodi Al Fayed stands at the Bronze age foundry in London Aug. 24. Sculpted by Bill Mitchell, "Innocent Victims" is a portrayal of the late Princess of Wales dancing with her lover Dodi Al Fayed. AFP

DECLARATION OF SUPPORT FOR THE RULE OF LAW

The Bible Believers' League for Morality and Democracy (BIBLEMODE), the Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches(PCEC), the Alliance of Baptist Councils (ABC), Transformation Philippines, the Romans 13 Movement, the Christian Leaders for Good Government(CLGG) and the Council of Christian Bishops in the Philippines (CCBP) in support for the rule of law as an answer to anarchy, hereby declare:

The Seven Rs of Christian People

1. **Respect authority.** "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right."(Ephesians 6:1); "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves:"(Hebrews 13:17a); "Put them in mind to be subject to principalities and powers, to obey magistrates, to be ready to every good work, "(Titus 3:1) "Let every soul be subject to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and the authorities that exist are appointed by God. "(Romans 13:1 NKJV)

2. **Rebuild the moral foundation of governance.** "If the foundations be destroyed, what can the righteous do? "(Psalm 11:3); "The highway of the upright is to depart from evil: he that keepeth his way preserveth his soul. "(Proverbs 16:17) "The curse of the LORD is in the house of the wicked: but he blesseth the habitation of the just. "(Provervs 3:33) "He who walks righteously and speaks uprightly, he who despites the gain of oppressions, who gestures with his hands, refusing bribes, who stops his ears from hearing of bloodshed, and shuts his eyes from seeing evil: he will dwell on high; his place of defense will be fortress of rocks; bread *will be* given him, his water *will be* sure." (Isaiah 33:15-16 NKJV)

3. **Restore the public trust, give the President a chance and allow the government to perform its mandate.** "He that walketh uprightly, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart ... He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. " (Psalms 15:2,5)

4. **Reject government takeover by military junta or by the Communists.** "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: the powers that be are ordained of God. Whosoever therefore resisteth the power,resisteth the ordinance of God: and they that resist shall receive to themselves damnation. " (Romans 13:1-2)

5. **Report all forms of graft and corruption and cooperate in the prosecution of erring officials.** "Even so every good tree bringeth forth good fruit; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit,neither can a corrupt tree forth good fruit. " (Matthew 7:17 18) "Take away the dross from the silver, and there shall come forth a vessel for the finer. Take away the wicked from before the king, and his throne shall be established in righteousness." (Proverbs 25:45)

6. **Refuse a political system that rejects God, is not responsive to the people's needs nor adaptable to our culture and support the Charter change initiative.** "Judge me, O God, and plead my cause against an ungodly nation: O deliver me from the deceitful and unjust man. " (Psalm 43:1); "The king that faithfully judgeth the poor, his throne shall be established for ever." (Proverbs 29:14); "Mercy and truth preserve the king: and his throne is upholden by mercy." (Proverbs 20:28); "In the multitude of people is the king's honour: but in the want of people is the destruction of the prince."(Proverbs 14: 28)

7. **Repent of our personal and national sins for the healing of our land.** "If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways: then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land. " (II Chronicles 7:14); " ... repent ye, and believe the gospel." (Mark 1:15b)

We ask the Honorable members of Congrees to accelerate their deliberations regarding the legitimacy of having three impeachment complaints within the framework of relevant provisions in the Constitution, so that the Philippines can finally move forward on the path of sustainable development.

JOIN US for the good our countrymen and for the future of our nation!

Write to PO Box 1957, Makati CPO, 1259 Makati City, Philippines.

Signed by

BISHOP BENNY M. ABANTE, Th.D.
Alliance of Baptist Council

BISHOP EFRAIM TENDERO
Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches

BISHOP DAVE SOBREPENA
Philippine Council of Evangelical Churches

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BIBLEMODE

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Pilgrim Bible Baptist Church

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Bible Baptist Church
Kitcharao Mindanao

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First Baptist Church of Pildira

PASTOR CHRISTOPHER H. PASCUA
Living Way Fellowship

PASTOR FIDEL T. ORSOLINO
People's Baptist Church

PASTOR VIRGILIO B. SERRANO
People's Baptist Church

PASTOR LARRY SAN PEDRO
Christian Leaders in Good Government

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Mandaluyong City

PASTOR ROBERT I. MANANSALA
Grace Baptist Church

PASTOR BENITO BERNAL
Christian Light Baptist Church

PASTOR REUBEN A. ESPALDON
Metropolitan Bible Baptist Mission

PASTOR JERRY B. ANOTA
Central Baptist Tabernacle

PASTOR ARCHIE C. ALVAREZ
Bible Baptist Temple

PASTOR PETER MENESES
People's Baptist Church

PASTOR SAMUEL GARAIS
Manila People's Baptist Church

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People's Baptist Church-Polo

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People's Baptist Church
Valenzuela City

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Blue Ridge Bible Baptist Church

PASTOR ART ESMALLA
First Baptist Church--Onyx, Paco

PASTOR GERARDO P. LAROSA
Moriah Baptist Bible Church,
Marikina

PASTOR ROMEO D. MANGALINO
Bethel Baptist Church

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Bible Baptist Church, Quezon

PASTOR RAFAEL DELA CRUZ
Village Baptist Church

PASTOR ERNIE M. BINAY
Macedonian Bible Baptist Church

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PASTOR APOLLOS J. HERNANDEZ
Chirst Baptist Church,
Muntinlupa City

PASTOR ISIDRO B. CHANO
Urduja Bible Baptist Church
Caloocan

PASTOR DANILO FACON
Blueridge Bible Baptist Mission

PASTOR JOSE RAMIREZ, JR.
Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church,
Valenzuela

PASTOR RICHARD CRAIG G. GELLOR
Metropolitan Bible Baptist Mission

PASTOR ALLEN M. BELWA
Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church
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BRO. ARNOLD N. BADAGUAS

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Couontryside Baptist Church
Pasig

PREACHER ROBERT MALIT
Metropolitan Bible Baptist Church

PASTOR NESTER SERRANO
Global City Bible Baptist Church

PREACHER ARNOLD ALCANTARA
Metroplitan Bible Baptist Church

PASTOR SAMUEL SANDOVAL
Living Bread Baptist Church

PASTOR DANNY MATEO
International Bible Baptist Church

PREACHER LEUTERIO ELEUTERIO
Lighthouse Bible Baptist Mission,
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PAID ADVERTISEMENT

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT TO THE DECISION OF REP. EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY, ALLIANCE OF VOLUNTEER EDUCATORS (AVE) PARTY LIST, TO WITHDRAW HIS SIGNATURE ON THE IMPEACHMENT COMPLAINT AGAINST PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO.

The Philippine Association of State Universities and College (PASUC), the umbrella national organization of the hundred twelve (112) State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), strongly believes that the decision of Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay to withdraw his signature on the impeachment complaint against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is a clear manifestation of his conviction to end organized attempts to destabilize the President and country with telling effect on Philippine economy and the Filipino people.

Done in the City of Manila on August 27, 2005.

Dr. Eldigario D. Gonzales
President

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We, the undersigned, representing majority of the Board of Directors of the Philippine Association of Extension Program Implementers, Inc. (PAEPI), a non-stock, non-profit professional association that seeks the implementation of programs, projects and activities to become a key player in elevating extension to the level of a discipline and in upgrading professionalism of the extension program implementers.

We, the undersigned, Board of Directors of PAEPI, individually expressed our full and unwavering support to HON. EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY, Representative of the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE) for his discernment in his move to withdraw from the list of congressmen in the impeachment case against our President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

We, the undersigned, Board of Directors of PAEPI, pursuant to the mandate entrusted to us by the constitutional assembly of PAEPI, shall continue to establish and maintain close working relationships among government and non-government institutions in order to undertake a nationwide extension agenda complementary to national development effort that promote empowerment and sustainable development.

Therefore, we the undersigned, Board of Directors of PAEPI, joined forces with all elements of Philippine society who respect the rule of law in order to secure the entire Filipino economic and political stability.

Signed on the 29th of August, 2005 in Manila, Philippines

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Vice-Chairman, Board of Directors

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PROF. ALLAN DELA CALZADA
Business Manager

MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT

The officers of the University of the Philippines Alumni Association, Eastern Visayas Chapter, strongly support the decision of Congressman Eulogio "Amang" Magsaysay to withdraw as endorser and co-complainant to the amended impeachment complaint.

We strongly believe in his integrity and his purest of intentions to buckle down to work, stop all the politicking and concentrate on the much urgent issues affecting the Filipino people.

We believe that his decision is laudable in as much as the more pressing concern today is to address the energy problem, the delivery of basic services, the improvement of the quality of education, and the threats to domestic and national security.

In view thereof, we strongly urge the other lawmakers to follow the lead of Congressman Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay and move forward in the spirit of unity and cooperation.

George H. Tiopes
President
UP Alumni Association
Eastern Visayas Chapter

SA AKING MGA MAHAL NA KABABAYAN. "I have crossed the Rubicon." There is no turning back. Once again, events have lead us to a crossroad in our nation's history. Hindi na po maatim ng inyong lingkod na makita ang minamahal nating bansa na nagkakawatak-watak dahil sa sobrang pamumulitika. Kung hindi po natin susugpuin ang krisis na ito, unti-unti po nitong pababagalin ang takbo ng ating ekonomiya at sisirain nitong tuluyan ang pinakasentro ng ating bansa, ang ating pagiging Pilipino.

Pagkatapos ng malalim at masusing pag-aaral, akin pong napagnilay-nilay na dapat kong iatras ang aking pag-endorso at pagiging "Co-complainant" sa "Amended Impeachment Complaint". After careful perusal of the said complaint, this representation found out the following: First, in the absence of a direct knowledge of the facts antecedent thereto, and in consonance with the dictum that a person is presumed innocent until proven otherwise beyond reasonable doubt, I cannot be a complainant; Second, following the law and applicable jurisprudence, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo may only be impeached for acts she committed the present term. The allegations of electoral fraud relate to acts that were purportedly committed during the previous term of the President and therefore cannot be made as basis for her impeachment; Third, this representation in further assessing the situation at hand, had so keenly observed with the highest degree of diligence, to apprise the testimonies of various witnesses or personalities, who one after the other, either sustained their respective testimonies or retracted.

Therefore, one careful, thorough and meticulous evaluation of the Amended Impeachment Complaint, I am strongly convinced that it failed to meet the requirements of sufficiency of form and substance and fails to show probable cause to justify an impeachment proceeding. It must be emphasized that an impeachment complaint can yield serious consequences to our nation and should not be based on unfounded allegations.

Tunay po na mayroon tayong sinumpaang tungkulin sa ating mga kababayan. Let us now move forward and lead our people in the spirit of unity and reconciliation. Let us put food in their tables by giving them better income opportunities. Let us give them better job opportunities so that they can provide good quality education for giving them better income opportunities. Let us give them better job opportunities so that they can provide good quality education for their children. Let us give the peace they need so that they will never again have sleepless nights. Let us give our people a better country, a better nation, a strong republic! I know that this decision entails a lot of political sacrifice. I AM ONLY BEHOLDEN TO THE FILIPINO PEOPLE, I AM NOT BEHOLDEN TO ANYONE. And if history shall overtake our dreams, this representation hopes that history will be kind to him and the Filipino people. Maraming Salamat po! God Bless our country.

EULOGIO "AMANG' R. MAGSAYSAY, Ph.d.
Representative, AVE Party List

MANIFESTO OF SUPPORT

The Provincial Parent-Teacher Community Association (PTCA) Confederation of Batangas, Inc., Batangas City, strongly support Rep. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay of the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE) Party List in his very intelligent decision of withdrawing as endorser and co-complainant to the amended impeachment complaint filed against her Excellency, President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

This is to further manifest the PTCA Confederation of Batangas' unremitting faith in Rep. Magsaysay's advocacy of pushing for reforms our education sector is in dire need of, thus, focusing more on the issues that need to be addressed.

Done this 29th of August, 2005.

ENGR. ROMULO P. CUEVAS
President
Provincial PTCA Confederation of Batangas, Inc.
Batangas City

STATEMENT OF SUPPORT

We believe the political bickering has contributed largely to the economic uncertainties and rising cost of living, making life more difficult to students.

Genuine democracies succeed only where teaching is valued by society as a time-honored profession. Education is an endeavor where the whole community is involved, and the education system is supposed to be non-partisan and insulated from politics.

We recognize the efforts of Hon. Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay for his focus on education reforms. Hence, a champion and protector of all education stakeholders.

All of us have a collective responsibility to make our education system perform. We are greatful that this is manifested in the likes of Cong. Magsaysay-thus our unwavering support.

DR. ARNULFO H. EMPLEO
President
National Association of Public Secondary School Heads, Inc. (NAPSSHI)

HON. EULOGIO "AMANG" R. MAGSAYSAY
Representative
AVE Party list
House of Representatives
Republic of the Philippines

Dear Hon. Cong. Amang Magsaysay:

Gracious greetings from your people at the Island Province of Siquijor!

The undersigned, in his various capacities as President of Siquijor State College, President of Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities (PACUIT), President of Philippine Association of Vocational Educators (PAVE) Region 7, and in the same capacities as officer or member of many other civic organizations, wishes to articulate his categorical and unequivocal support to you in whatever political decisions you make relative to the political turmoil that has been besetting the nation for some time now.

Please be assured that the undersigned, in behalf of the organizations under him all throughout the Philippines, and in behalf of all the people under his responsible stewardship, is supportive of every intelligent decision you make in your political career, particularly with regard to your recent withdrawing of support for the pending impeachment complaint in Congress against President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. This is with the firm belief that your actions will later redound to the basic interests of your constituencies and the nation as a whole.

Further, please be assured that we, at Siquijor State College, are your able partner in attaining social, political, economic, and cultural development of our people.

Finally, in behalf of all Siquijodnons and our people, **MABUHAY KA, CONG. AMANG! Mabuhay ang bansang Pilipinas!**

Very respectfully yours,
Dominador Q. Cabanganan, Ed. D.
SUC President

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Indonesia frees Aceh rebel prisoners

JAKARTA—Indonesia's president on Tuesday signed a decree granting amnesty to separatist rebels in Aceh province, clearing the way for more than 1,400 guerrillas to be freed from jail, the state secretary said.

The decree was the expected next step in the implementation of a historic peace agreement signed between the rebels and the government in Finland earlier this month. It had to be passed by Wednesday at the latest.

"Today the president (Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono) signed the presidential decree ... on amnesty for those involved in the Free Aceh Movement (GAM)," Yusril Iha Mahendra told a press conference.

The decree, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, stipulates that amnesty is granted to all GAM members, whether they are detained and serving jail sentences or are currently free.

GAM members convicted of crimes unrelated to the separatist movement are not eligible for amnesty.

"With the general amnesty, the person's social, political, economic and other rights shall be restored," the decree said.

The peace accord, inked after six months of negotiations that were sparked off by last December's tsunami, paves the way for an end to 29 years of conflict which has left about 15,000 people dead, mostly civilians.

Under the deal, GAM dropped its long-held demand for independence for a form of local self-government and agreed to disarm and demobilize its fighters.

Indonesia promised in return to withdraw its non-local security forces by the end of the year, offer amnesties to rebels by Aug. 31 and allow the creation of political parties in the resource-rich province.

More than 1,400 prisoners are now expected to be released from jail on Wednesday under the arrangement.

The decree authorizes pardons for both Indonesian and foreign members of the separatist group, as was expected. GAM's top leaders live in exile in Sweden.

"Everybody who gets an amnesty but has lost his Indonesian citizenship, and currently holds foreign citizenship or no citizenship, has the right to obtain his Indonesian citizenship back," the decree said. Rebels must abandon any foreign citizenship however within six months, it added, and pledge allegiance to Indonesia.

Parliamentarians, annoyed at not being consulted during the largely secret negotiations with the rebels, had called for them to swear an oath of allegiance to the government as a precondition for amnesty. *AFP*

Netanyahu to challenge Sharon

TEL AVIV—Benjamin Netanyahu launched his much-anticipated campaign Tuesday to oust Prime Minister Ariel Sharon from the leadership of the right-wing Likud party with a blistering attack on Israel's pullout from Gaza.

"I intend to lead us to victory in the upcoming elections and to establish the next government in the spirit of Likud" the media-savvy former premier told a news conference in Tel Aviv. "The Likud needs a leader who can unite the ranks, who can rebuild the ruins and take the Likud to victory, and afterwards to lead the country in the spirit of our principles." The announcement came less than a month after Netanyahu quit as finance minister in protest at Sharon's decision to unilaterally pull troops and settlers out of the occupied Gaza Strip.

Netanyahu said he would not sanction any more pullouts without a nationwide referendum and accused Sharon of turning Gaza into a haven for extremists such as the Lebanese Shiite militia Hezbollah and the radical Palestinian movement Hamas.

"Sharon gave and gave, and gave some more, the Palestinians got more and more and more," said Netanyahu. "What did we get in return? The answer is: nothing, nothing and nothing.

"In the past, I proved my ability to conduct forceful negotiations with the Palestinians. I laid down a principle which is known to you all—the principle of reciprocity. They give, they get. If they don't give, they won't get." Netanyahu was flanked at the launch by a clutch of Likud MPs, including former foreign minister David Levy. *AFP*

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IMPORTANT

Tomorrow, September 2, 2005, will be the FIRST FRIDAY of the month.

Archbishop Gaudencio B. Rosales, DD will be the celebrant at the 6:00 PM mass on Friday at the Santuario de San Antonio, Forbes Park.

Fr. Gerard Deveza, the healing priest, will preside at the 3:00 PM mass at the parish center.

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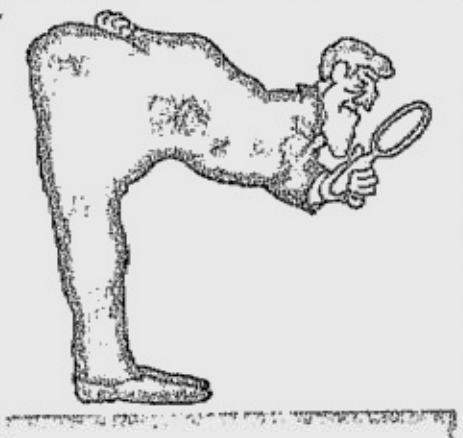

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Lebanon names murder suspects

BEIRUT—In the first major break in a crime that transformed Lebanon, the United Nations on Tuesday named four pro-Syrian generals and a former legislator as suspects in the assassination of former Prime Minister Rafik Hariri.

The Lebanese government, acting at the request of the UN, detained three of the men for questioning in the February slaying. A fourth surrendered for interrogation and a fifth returned from Syria, promising to cooperate.

The moves against such once-powerful generals and politicians would have been unthinkable a few months ago when the country and its government still were under Syrian control. But Syria's troop withdrawal in April has turned the country's power structure on its head. After Hariri's assassination, Syria ended its nearly three-decade domination of the country under intense domestic and international pressure. New parliamentary elections swept anti-Syrian politicians to power.

Tuesday's startling developments, however, still could produce serious political fallout in the country, particularly by targeting the commander of the Presidential Guards Brigade, Brig. Gen. Mustafa Hamdan, who provides security for and is an associate of pro-Syrian President Emile Lahoud, a bitter political foe of Hariri. Hamdan voluntarily appeared for questioning.

Lahoud said the summons were not arrests and praised Hamdan as "one of the best officers in the Lebanese army."

Besides Hamdan, the generals swept up in Tuesday's actions were: Maj. Gen. Jamil Sayyed, former chief of the powerful General Security department; Maj. Gen. Ali Hajj, former police chief, and Brig. Gen. Raymond Azar, former head of military intelligence.

The four generals have been questioned previously by German prosecutor Detlev Mehlis, the UN chief investigator who requested that the men be summoned. Details of the investigation are secret and nothing was known about what evidence led to the detentions Tuesday.

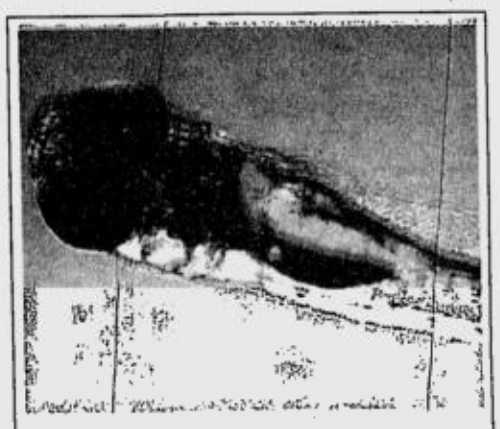
State Department spokesperson Sean McCormack welcomed Mehlis' efforts to get to the bottom of Hariri's murder and said, "the Lebanese people deserve to know what happened."

Separately, state television reported, three other officers and Hamdan's brother also were detained for questioning.

Mehlis briefed Prime Minister Fuad Saniora and Justice Minister Charles Rizk on Tuesday and said in a statement tha his investigators had searched the homes of the four generals "before bringing them in as suspects for questioning."

Mehlis also summoned former legislator Nasser Qandil, a staunch deender of Syria's influence in Lebanon. Qandil wasin Syria when police went to his Beirut house, but later returned by car and was escorted by two police vehicles from the Lebanese border to the capital. In brief comments to reporters, he said he would cooperate with the investigation. "I place myself at their (UN team's) disposal and at the disposal of anything that leads to speeding up the unveiling of the truth" in Hariri's murder, Qaidil said.

Hariri's assassination in a massive bombing on a Beirut street Feb. 14 that also killed 20 others sparked mass anti-Syrian protests and intensified international pressure on Syria to withdraw its army, ending 29 years of control of itsneighbor. *AP*



FLUORESCENT FISH
This photo, released by Taiwan's Academia Sinica, shows a microscopic view of a Zebra fish with fluorescent organs, in Taipei, Taiwan which will be used to test new drugs. AP

China to close 7,000 coal mines

BEIJING—In the face of a rising death toll this year, China has ordered one-third of its coal mines to suspend production by the end of this year because they are unsafe.

Industry insiders said the suspension will leave a huge number of miners jobless, but coal supply will only be slightly affected because most of the pits involved are small.

The State Administration of Coal Mine Safety publicized yesterday the first group of 1,324 mines required to stop production and meet national safety standards. If they do not, they will be shut down permanently.

"The number is not all of the mines on the suspension list; the total will reach 7,000 soon," the administration's press officer, surnamed An, told China Daily.

Administration figures indicated that China has about 24,000 coal mines, which satisfy 70 percent of the country's annual energy demand. However, because of the transient nature of mining employment, no official statistics on the number of miners are available.

An said the responsibility to monitor the suspensions and supervise the safey improvement of the 7,000 mines will fall on local governments. "The central government will soon unveil regulations which require provincial and local governments to play a key role in safeguarding coal mine safety," she said. "Otherwise, they will be severely punished."

An said a new central government system for monitoring coal mines will be announced today, which includes detailed measures to prevent coal mine disasters.

Some local governments and officials have been protecting poorly equipped coal mines, where accidents have claimed an average of 18 miners a day in the first six months of this year.

In the United States and other developed countries, the annual death toll in coal mines is generally no higher than 40. *China Daily/ Asia News Network*

World's oldest person dies

THE HAGUE—The person described as the world's oldest, Hendrikje van Andel-Schipper of the Netherlands, has died aged 115, the retirement home where she lived said Tuesday.

It said she died in her sleep in the home in the northern town of Hoogeveen.

Van Andel-Schipper was born prematurely on June 29, 1890 and her mother had said at the time: "this child is not meant to live," the Dutch news agency ANP reported.

She had already donated her body to science and made plans to be taken to the university hospital in the city of Groningen after her death.

Van Andel-Schipper was almost blind but suffered no other ailments.

She was married in 1939, aged 49, to Henny Schipper, whom she had met three years earlier, and was widowed in 1959.

A delegation of the Ajax Amsterdam football, of which she was a lifetime supporter, visited her on her 114th birthday.

The Guinness Book of World Records recognized Van Andel-Schipper as the world's oldest human. *AFP*

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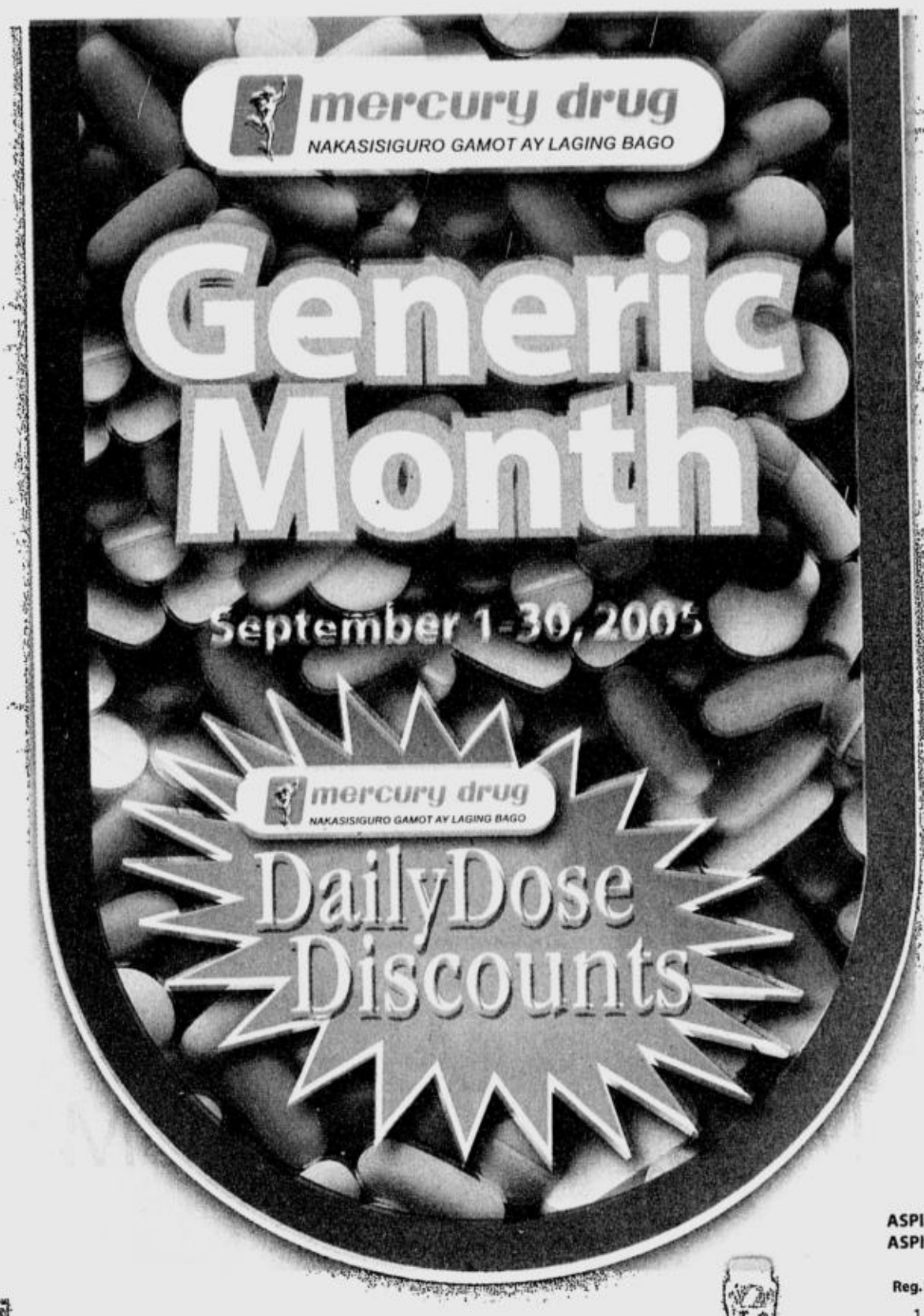
30 Journey of Faith
25 Lantern Safari 2005
10 Korean Food Fiesta
30 Chinatown Mid Autumn Festival
30 Quidam by cirque du Soleil
10 Mooncake Mid Autumn Celebration
18
15 UIM F1 Powerboat World Championship
18 5th International Guitar Festival
30 ARTSingapore The Asian Contemporary Art Fair
30 Singapore Jewel Fest

October
2 Quidam by cirque du Soleil
1 ARTSingapore The Asian Contemporary Art Fair
9 Journey of Faith
9 Singapore Jewel Fest
3 Deepavali Festival
27 Theemidhi Festival
TBA Asian Art Week

November
6 Deepavali Festival
10 Pan Pacific Lantern Up
20 World Cyber Games Grand Finals
30 Gao Xing Jian
27 SITE 2005 @ Singapore
26 Singapore River Regatta
TBA Kala Utsavam Indian Festival of Arts
TBA Singapore Busker Festival
TBA Pesta Rayat Malay Festival of Arts

December
31 Gao Xing Jian
31 Celebrate December
4 Standard Chartered Singapore Marathon
TBA Fantasia in the Tropics
TBA The Snow Queen
TBA New Year Countdown

Singapore Tourism Board
UNIQUELY Singapore



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ANCHOR FC MLK PDR 400G	115.75	111.25
ANCHOR FC MLK PDR 800G	231.00	224.00
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ANCHOR 2IN1 CHOC FORTIFMC 1KG	304.00	294.75
ANCHOR FC PDR MLK 1800G	507.25	492.00
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NIDO PDR MLK TIN 2500G	689.75	689.00

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157.75	149.75

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SQUIBB VIT E CAP 400IU 10

Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
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212.50	200.00

VASELINE SH CLN&FRSH 200ML
VASELINE SH ITCH&D-CTRL 200ML

Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
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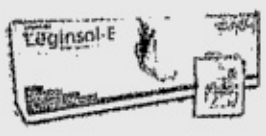
77.00	73.00



LEGINSOL-E CAP

Reg. Price/cap	PAY ONLY/cap
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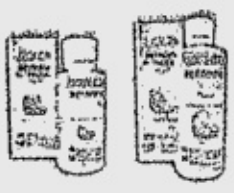

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MASTER A-BAC FWASHDERMA-C 100ML

Reg. Price	PAY ONLY
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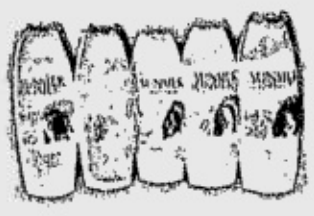

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SUNSILK SH EX SOFT&SLKY 200ML
SUNSILK SH LGT&SLKY 200ML
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SUNSILK SH RELAX&CTRL 200ML
SUNSILK SH STRGTH&SHN 200ML

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77.00	73.00
77.00	73.00
77.00	73.00
77.00	73.00
77.00	73.00

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CREAMSILK D-CTRL MTS 200ML
CREAMSILK LGT&BNCY MTS 200ML
CREAMSILK PRTCT+MTS 200ML
CREAMSILK THICK&ST MTS 200ML

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90.50	85.75
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90.50	85.75
74.00	70.25

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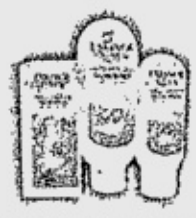
1.40	1.20



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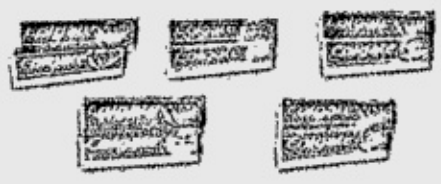

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22.75	21.50
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COLGATE GEL FCONFI XRED 25ML	15.75	14.90
COLGATE GEL FCONFI XRED 50ML	29.00	27.50

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Two new arenas

EDITORIAL

BY WALKING out last Tuesday, opposition members of the House of Representatives' committee on justice did everyone a favor. The walkout will, at the very least, mercifully cut short the committee hearings, giving the whole country a breather from a bad *telenovela* that has long ceased to be entertaining. At the same time, pro-administration lawmakers will be spared the pain and embarrassment of continuing to display on national television how they can mangle the rules, the law and logic to keep President Macapagal-Arroyo in Malacañang. For the opposition, on the other hand, the walkout simply proved what most Filipinos already know: that the administration is determined to spare no resource or effort, as well as to employ every trick in the book, to get the President off the hook.

After walking out of the hearings, the question is, where will the pro-impeachment congressmen go next? Apparently no one wants to go back to the committee where they could again be gagged and surely outvoted by the majority. The hotheads among them are probably hoping they would soon be marching in the streets with the kind of huge and angry crowd that would make Ms Arroyo flee in fear. But the consensus seems to be that they will take their fight to the floor where the House, meeting in plenary, will debate and vote on the committee's final recommendation. Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes said that instead of taking part in a "bastardized process," their group would concentrate on convincing more of their colleagues to sign the impeachment complaint so that they could get the 79 votes needed to override the committee's recommendation.

They better work double-time. The pro-Arroyo express has shifted to high gear, with the committee on justice fast-tracking the vote on the two "prejudicial questions" left briefly hanging by their walkout. Late Tuesday afternoon, in fact, the committee voted to consider as separate the three complaints that had been endorsed to the committee. Yesterday, it voted to consider only the original complaint filed lawyer Oliver Lozano, which has all the earmarks of a stalking horse designed to stop on its tracks the third and much stronger amended complaint put together by various opposition lawmakers and groups.

Gathering signatures to reach the magic number of 79, however, may be only one half of the battle. The other half may have to be waged in the Supreme Court. Consider the most likely case where the committee on justice reports to the plenary that it found the Lozano complaint insufficient in form and substance. Will the pro-impeachment congressmen then vote to override the committee recommendation and send the very weak complaint to the Senate for trial? If they cannot settle for that pathetic excuse for an impeachment complaint, how then can they ensure that the stronger amended complaint will be the one transmitted to the Senate as the articles of impeachment? In other words, can the votes of one-third of the House set aside everything that the committee on justice has decided?

If the President and her allies think she can leave for the United Nations with a clean bill of (political) health later this month, they are wrong. The opposition congressmen and their allies may have abandoned the justice committee and its proceedings, but their cause is far from lost. They have two arenas in which to continue their fight: the Supreme Court and the plenary. After being outflanked, outmaneuvered or simply outnumbered in the committee, they can be expected to come better prepared this time. Ms Arroyo will remain stuck in the muck for a long time yet.

Right to deport

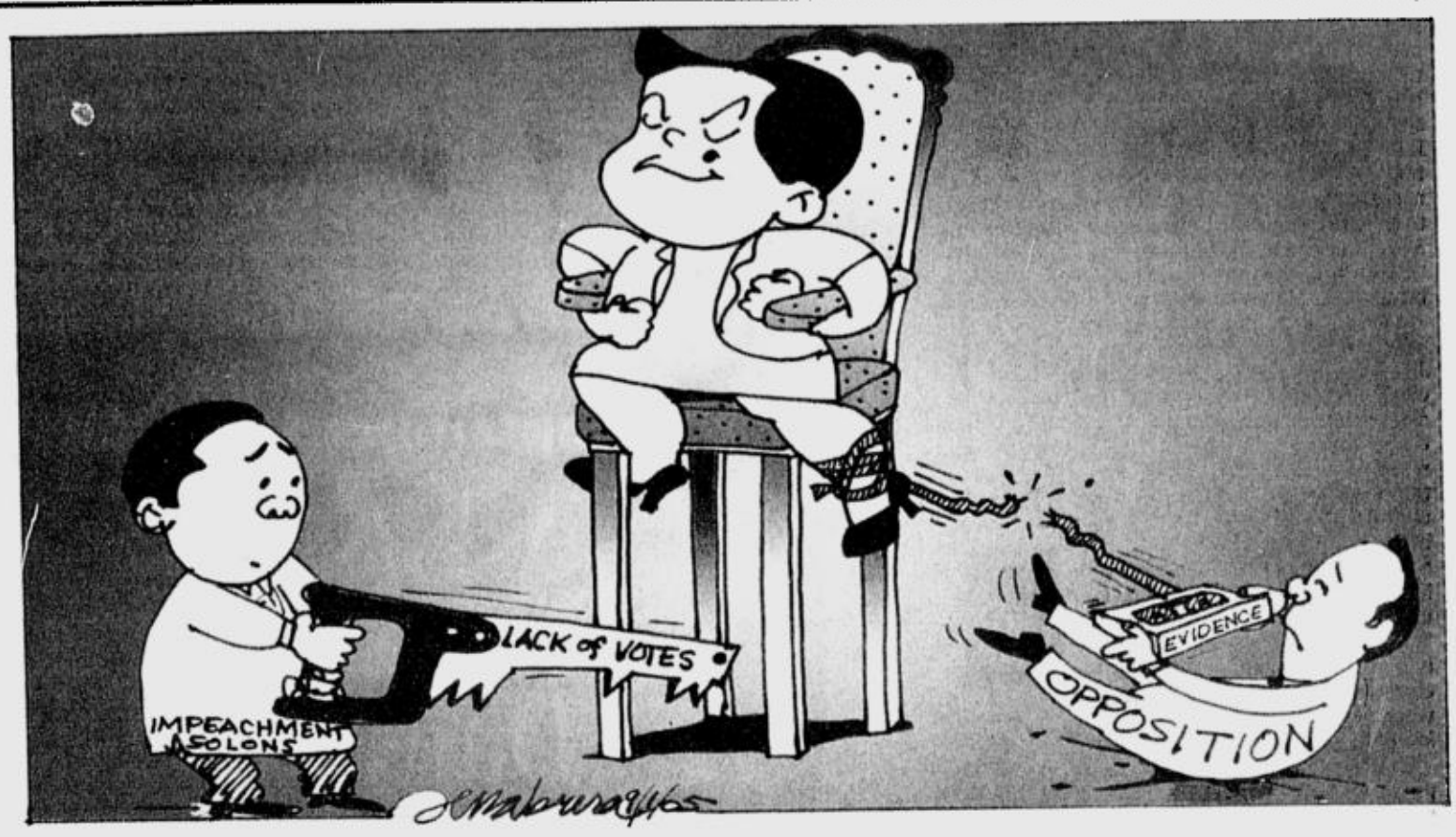
FOREIGN COMMENT

THE MEMORANDUM of understanding (MoU) recently signed between Jordan and Britain allowing the latter to deport Jordanians considered a security risk is continuing to fuel national debate.

Perhaps a closer reading of the MoU would stop the ongoing acrimonious debate. What it says is that Jordanians who are deported from the United Kingdom to Jordan for security reasons must be assured of their basic human rights, including protection from the death penalty, torture or ill-treatment, and unjust trials or unlawful detention. There is nothing here that impinges on the human rights of such people.

The United Kingdom is subject to the European Convention on Human Rights (and may) not deport people to any country where they may face the death penalty, torture or ill treatment.

Therefore, so long as the United Kingdom does not contravene this legislation, Britain is well within its right to deport anyone it deems "non-conducive to the public good." *The Jordan Times (Amman)*



The heroes we never were

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"HERO" was the favorite word of the week. The word popped up everywhere—from the convoluted impeachment debates, the Ramon Magsaysay Awards rites to the Libingan ng mga Bayani (Heroes' Cemetery) memorial rites.

"What we have is a crisis of heroes," wrote INQUIRER columnist Antonio Montalvan II. Essays on the late President, written by students, he said, revealed youngsters groping for values that Ramon Magsaysay embodied.

In the House of Representatives, is a case of "too late the hero" unfolding? asked constitutionalist Joaquin Bernas, S.J. Unusually shy House members hint that they'll vote for impeachment—but only in plenary, not in committee. So far, the opposition has lassoed only 49 of the 79 signatures needed to prevent premature expiry of the impeachment complaint.

If the vote collapses in committee, interest in the plenary sessions evaporates, Father Bernas points out. That's the lesson of past impeachments. Legislators then morph into truants.

"We can't all be heroes," Will Rogers once cracked. "Somebody has to sit on the curb and clap as they go by." Is that the reason for this shy-violet routine?

"I see greed, I see indifference, I see apathy...when I listen to the radio or read the papers," Taguig Mayor Freddie Tiñga lamented at the National Heroes Day rites. "It's the heroes I do not see."

"Yet, if one only looks in the right places, one would find heroes," Tiñga said amid the graves of heroes (excluding, so far, the best Filipino dictator money could buy). Today's unsung heroes range from citizens who share with the poor to ordinary policemen who turn down bribes.

"Many heroes lived before Agamemnon," the Greek poet Horace wrote in 65 B.C. "But all are unknown and unwept, extinguished in everlasting night, / because they had no spirited chronicler."

Well, PO2 Guinan Ibrahim and PO1 Jose Calibuso had the INQUIRER and other media. Just after Tiñga's speech, they nailed a thief and returned P1.28 million to the victim's family. "Not a centavo was missing," their superiors said. "These are Northern Police District heroes."

Concern about "values that endure even after the sun goes out" is welcome. The country suffers, Montalvan says, from a "crisis of saints—the self-proclaimed variety, that is." They claw for today's version of Horace's "spirited chronicler": the front page or prime-time TV.

So, I dug up my dog-eared copy of "The Heroes We Never Were." Skeptical University of the Philippines graduates cheered National Scientist Dioscoro Umali who delivered this address shortly before his death. Excerpts:

"I wonder if our generation may have failed your generation," the dean diffidently began. Despite undeniable achievements, like broadened literacy and longer life spans, "our profligacy of years past dissipated your inheritance of abundant God-given resources...and in politics, your heritage from us will be a mixed bag.

"We do not inherit the land from our parents," Umali recalled the old peasant saying. "We merely borrow land from our children." But these resources were wasted recklessly.

"We endangered your capacity to provide daily bread for your families, from the land you loaned us. As prodigal parents, we radically altered your future. Greed of the past has seen to that. We lowered the threshold for violence by breeding social unrest. Above all, you will have little time left to correct our failures.

"We stripped the land of its beauty. Your children will no longer thrill, as we once did, to the heart-stopping dive of a hawk.... The rich texture of Philippine mahogany will be a quaint story for them. Their panaromas will be of drab landscapes, blanketed by sterile cogon grass, not the verdant meadows we knew as youngsters.

"And the bitter tragedy is that these victims are our grandchildren: 'flesh of our flesh, bone of our bone.'

"Part of that legacy is a 'gathering storm,' stemming from failure to ease poverty, lag in agrarian reform, population pressure—and elite indifference. What passes for national debate were the 'charades of yesterday's men.' Are we not all in danger of losing sight of the real future?

"Candor compels me to warn that...your children will be drafted to quell future insurgencies and other consequences of today's unwillingness to accept the social responsibilities of wealth," he said.

"We hope that you learn the lesson we never fully grasped: that a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions; that sharing and equity constitute the first seeds of your survival. Realism compels me to say: Be the heroes we never were—or perish."

All citizens, especially those gifted with education, are called to "heroic service," Umali told the graduates. All must seek, in their careers, to increase the options of people beyond shared poverty. It is critical to craft people-centered policies and demand accountability from government.

Back those who would nurse the blighted landscape, he urged. "Nature has an amazing God-given capacity to regenerate. The debris are soon swept away by nature's forgiveness, once the hand of man is no longer raised against her."

The disciples' plea "at Emmaus strikes a responsive chord for people of my generation: 'Stay with us, Lord. For the day is now far spent. And it is almost evening.'

"In our twilight years, there is a desperate hope, in many of us, that your vision will see beyond the debris we left to what can still be retrieved and rebuilt. Go and be the heroes we never quite managed to become—and live."

* * *

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What is to be done?

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THERE was something a little heroic in the desperation with which the pro-impeachment representatives looked at their project. Gathered at Albergus last Monday night for a dinner Susan Roces threw in their honor, they took turns talking not only about the seeming hopelessness of their fight—money from Malacañang was flowing, each congressman who would vote to quash the impeachment stood to gain P25 million, they said—but also about the glowing resplendence of it. They looked headed to lose the battle, they said to a woman, or man, but they were destined to win the war.

For a minute there, I remembered Katsimoto (Ken Watanabe) asking Nathan Algren (Tom Cruise) in "The Last Samurai," while they huddled in the trenches, their enemies pounding them with cannons, what happened to the 300 Spartans. Algren had earlier told him the story of 300 warriors that held off an invader's horde in a pass called Thermopylae. Algren answers: "Dead to the last man." Katsimuto smiles, enthused by the answer. And they rush their enemies on horseback, their banners flailing in the wind, their swords glinting in the sun.

Some defeats are glorious victories.

Detractors, of course, will say that the walkout the other day at Congress was rehearsed. I don't know, maybe it was. But who cares? It was still the proper reaction to a disgusting display of lack of moral scruple, of people in power using the law to thwart justice, the favorite pastime of Ferdinand Marcos then, and the favorite pastime of GMA now. Well, they share more than height.

I can't say I'm greatly dismayed at what happened last Tuesday. It's not just that I expected the impeachment to be killed—there was little doubt of it, even if the pro-impeachment representatives also expressed the slim hope the last-minute converts might help turn the tide—it's also that I've always been two minds about impeaching GMA.

On the plus side, impeaching GMA stood to remind the world she was guilty of humongous wrongdoing, something Cory's and Dinky et al.'s call for her to resign failed to mention—they merely said the people had lost faith in her. On the downside, it stood to assert she was a President who, like Erap, betrayed the public trust when her public apology for the "Hello Garci" tape clearly voided the premise of her being President at all. You do not impeach a non-President, you simply remove her.

I can only hope Malacañang sets off more fireworks and Jose de Venecia gloats some more, if only to rile the public sufficiently and rouse it from its stupor. But I'm not unhappy that De Venecia's horde in Congress killed the move to impeach GMA because, quite apart from showing what "representative" really represents, it thrusts the issue back to its rightful forum. That is not the parliament of the Batasan—reclaimed from a place once overrun by weeds only to be given back to the weeds—but the parliament of the streets. There is no need to convoke that parliament, it has already been convoked. By GMA herself: The day she appeared on TV apologizing for her "lapse in judgment"—she forgot that the voters, and not Virgilio Garcillano, or Ronaldo Puno, put presidents in Malacañang—was the day she resurrected it. The force that brings this country's parliament of the streets back to life has always been the death of the presidency.

What is to be done now?

I've always thought the answer to that question was fairly simple. The problem is that we do not have a President that was voted by the voters. The solution is to have a President that has been voted by the voters.

If GMA has no legal claim to being the President—and she voided that claim the moment she said "Hello Garci"—then she has to be made to step down. That is a not just a moral imperative, it is a legal one. It is not a conditional demand, it is a categorical one. The task of ousting someone who has not been voted by the voters is not premised on finding a "suitable replacement," it is its own compulsion. No mandate, no rule. I don't know what methods others have in mind for ungluing Ate Glue from Malacañang. Like I said, mine is civil disobedience. I refuse to be a dutiful citizen to a dutiless ruler. A threatened country has the right to self-defense.

To this day, of course, I still keep hearing people say, "But who do you want in her place? Noli? Erap? Lacson? A transitional revolutionary government? A council of elders?" Well, the answer is not who I want in her place. The answer is not who you want in her place. The answer is not who the opposition and the various groups fighting GMA want in her place. The answer is who the people want, period. It's not her place, to begin with. Who the people want we can know only in and through elections. If the problem is that we do not have an elected president, then by all means let us elect one. Let us have snap elections for president.

I may not like it if Erap or De Castro wins the elections, but I must respect it. That is the people's will; that is what we have elections for. No individual or group may presume to know what's best for the people, only the people may presume to know what's best for them. The question is not who or what, it is how. It is the people themselves answering the question of who and what, through their vote. Snap elections are the only thing that can guarantee a new government that the citizens can at least uphold, if not admire. Snap elections are the only thing that can unite rather than divide all those who want an end to the current travesty. All other solutions will always suffer from questions of legitimacy and self interest. The various groups and individuals fighting GMA cannot grasp this, they won't just lose the battle, they'll lose the war.

As will the rest of the country.

Opposition lost points with walkout

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE WALKOUT staged by the opposition was quite unfortunate, for several reasons. One was the way some members of the opposition conducted themselves, as caught by the TV cameras. Some threw pieces of paper up in the air, while some harassed House leaders. Their unparliamentary behavior is being roundly criticized by the people. Speaker Jose de Venecia is said to have patiently endured the way neophyte Representatives Teofisto Guingona III and Rosanno Rufino Biazon harangued him and jabbed their fingers at him. At the height of the Erap impeachment process when passions ran high, the worst that Sen. Teofisto Guingona Jr. did was to stare Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile in the face and tell him, "I'm looking at you." Obviously, the young hotheads in the House are cut from a different mold.

* * *

At one point, another neophyte, Rep. Robert Jaworski Jr., harangued the justice committee chair, Rep. Simeon Datumanong who is a former governor, five-term congressman and two-time Cabinet member. Jaworski told the supremely patient and amiable Datumanong that if the majority continued behaving the way they were doing, they should be prepared for a "rebellion." The pint-sized Muslim representative from the Maguindanao tribe, the largest tribe in Mindanao, who was seated then, drew himself up to the tall basketball player and told him, "Are you threatening me with 'rebellion'? That is something we live with every day where I come from, so don't threaten me like that. Back where we come from, *hindi ginagamit ang bola, kundi bala*." Jaworski retreated.

The problem with some of these young opposition lawmakers is that they seem to have become so arrogant and self-righteous.

* * *

The behavior of these two neophyte representatives and a few of their youthful colleagues lends credence to reports that fierce debates have been going on since last week as to what the opposition's course of action ought to be. There are reports of differences in thinking between the young hotheads and their older, more sober colleagues.

Last Tuesday, apparently the young hotheads, among them the neophytes whose political sense has not been sufficiently honed, won when they convinced the entire minority to stage a walkout. There are reports that Deputy Minority Leader Alan Peter Cayetano himself was against the walkout. Watching from the sidelines, opposition leader Sen. Aquilino Pimentel was heard opining that the walkout was a big mistake. I agree.

* * *

Anyone who has followed the lengthy debates, which were given free rein by the ever-smiling Datumanong, must have seen that the opposition had argued every point but that, in the end, it comes down to a vote in the committee, where the majority rules. The opposition, through Cayetano, has indicated that it won't go back to the committee unless the amended complaint is given preference. That's not acceptable to the majority. So the only battleground left for the opposition is the plenary session where every member of the House will make a roll-call vote.

* * *

At this point, it's safe to say that because of the behavior of its members last Tuesday, the opposition lost points among the House members as well as among the people. La Union Rep. Manuel Ortega, who said that he delivered the biggest vote for candidate Fernando Poe Jr. last May 2004, said he is not signing the impeachment complaint because he was turned off by the unruly behavior of the opposition. The unruly behavior by partisans in the gallery and on the Batasan grounds, who threw the House into an uproar for some minutes, also may have scared off a lot of citizens, as did a big truck adorned with red flags that carried a big streamer that read, "No to Noli succession." This helps explain why there was no outrage from the people last Tuesday. The majority of of Filipinos really want to see this issue resolved quickly.

* * *

Some observations have been made about the timing of the press conference of some of the "Hyatt 10" Tuesday morning, where they made new "revelations" about certain questionable acts of GMA, and the walkout of the opposition in the afternoon. The two events are now being tied together, the way the events of July 8 were also bundled up.

I prefer to dwell on the motivation of Florencio Abad and Corazon Soliman. They should realize that people do not look kindly on those who kiss and tell, be it in love or in political relations. This is deemed the highest form of treachery.

* * *

Moreover, there is jurisprudence in the United States, after which our legal and judicial system was patterned, and here that recognizes the right of the president to "confidentiality of his conversations and correspondence," which is likened to "the claim of confidentiality of judicial deliberations." This was very pronounced in the Watergate case in 1973, where the US Supreme Court for the first time gave "executive privilege" a "constitutional status and a new name, although not necessarily a new birth." Thus, there is a view that holds that the testimony of the Hyatt 10 may not be admissible as evidence, based on previous jurisprudence as well as the rules of court. Lawyers note, for instance, Sec. 24 E, Rule 130 i., which provides: "A public officer cannot be examined during his term or afterwards as to 'communications' made to him in official confidence, when the court finds public interest would suffer by the disclosure."

Another point that should be noted is the allegation made by Abad that the Hyatt 10's demand that Pagcor chief Efraim Genuino be fired was supposedly answered by GMA by saying that she couldn't do so since "he can take care of the media and the bishops." That allegation was denied by the Cabinet members that same day, but sadly it has cast aspersions on media practitioners as well as bishops.

Oil of life

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

SEVERAL times I tried to fall in line to buy a cone of coconut milk ice cream sold from a Mamang Sorbetero push cart, but the line was, oh, so long, I gave up. But there were other coconut products that were just as inviting and interesting—lip balm, moisturizers, bath soap, non-dairy creamer, diesel additives, vinegar, all kinds of food. And of course, virgin coconut oil (VCO) which was the centerpiece of the 2005 National Coconut Week 4th National Coconut Festival held at SM Megamall last weekend.

A booth selling coconut milk extractors using the centrifugal method was giving a PowerPoint presentation with Harry Belafonte's popular song, "Coconut!" as background score.

Produced in different parts of the country, VCO came in various labels and packaging—ethnic, sophisticated, dignified, classy. But the integrity of the product should be the same.

There is a lot of work to be done in order to put (or put back) Philippine coconut products on the world's dining tables, medicine shelves, beauty bars and gas stations.

Well, as the Philippine Coconut Authority had announced, VCO exports are up 268 percent from the same period last year; and up 569 percent in export earnings compared to the first five months of last year. That is from the good news article by Christine Gaylican of the INQUIRER's Business Section.

For themselves and for their country, coconut product entrepreneurs, discoverers, innovators, developers, promoters, users, supporters, scientists and those nuts about coconuts gathered last weekend at the trade fair and exhibit. It was their way of showing that they were pushing on and forward—never mind the political climate in this benighted nation.

I couldn't help thinking a naughty thought—these VCO producers should send their quarrelling solons a bottle each of crystal clear VCO to clear their clogged colons.

I was at the fair for the book launching of "The Truth About Coconut Oil: The Drugstore in a Bottle" (Anvil Publishing) by Dr. Conrado S. Dayrit, eminent pharmacologist-internist, cardiologist, author, professor and unrelenting medical researcher. He has helped restore to the coconut oil its stolen global glory and put it back in its rightful place in the realm of food and medicine. That was last Sunday's Inquirer Magazine cover story on Dayrit ("Rx for Life: Use your coconut") which I wrote. The nice coconut-y cover photo of the energetic, ruddy-cheeked 86-year-old Dayrit was by August dela Cruz.

There was not enough space in that article to discuss Dayrit's painstaking, groundbreaking work and discoveries about coconut oil because I had to focus on the amazing person. So now, more on the amazing oil.

The background of all these was the fact that saturated fats, coconut oil in particular, were being blamed as the cause of increased cholesterol levels that led to heart disease. This was the gist of the so-called Lipid Diet-Heart Theory propounded by the West. Dayrit now bashes that as "brainwashing." Attempts to prove that theory wrong were either ignored or suppressed because the American seed oil industry had everything to gain from the demise of coconut oil.

Coconut oil is now regaining its good name, thanks to Dayrit and his counterparts who have proven by scientific research that coconut oil, a saturated fat, is a medium-chain fatty acid (MCFA)—not long-chain, like what is found in animal fats and other oils. "No oil in God's whole creation can compare with it in its numerous actions," Dayrit says with pride. We need no longer wonder why many Asians were using this wonder oil for generations until the badmouthing and blacklisting began.

But despite the strong lobbying by the US seed oil industry, some researchers managed to research on MCTs (medium-chain triglycerides) which contain capric and lauric acids and succeeded in getting them accepted as nutritious food for infants and premature babies, convalescents, the elderly as well as athletes. The US Food and Drug Administration even classified them as safe.

Writes Dayrit: "S.A. Hashim, Andre Back, Vigen K. Babayan and their associates were the first to publish papers in the '60s and '70s, showing that the absorption, distribution and metabolism of (MCFA) differ radically from long-chain fatty acids. The MCFAs of coconut oil are rapidly absorbed, carried by the portal vein to the liver and then oxidized, thus producing energy very rapidly.

"John Kabara, professor of microbiology at Michigan State University, discovered that the lauric acid of coconut oil, particularly its monoglyceride, was the most potent antiviral, antibacterial, and antifungal agent of all the various fatty acids from different fats and oils that he tested in his laboratory."

Dayrit did his own work. Dr. Bruce Fife (author of "The Healing Miracles of Coconut Oil") wrote: "Dr. Dayrit was the first to demonstrate, under controlled clinical conditions, that coconut oil could be of benefit to HIV-infected individuals. His landmark 1998 study established the fact that coconut oil alone could lower the viral load of HIV-infected patients and improve their overall health."

Dayrit's book is a treasure trove of scientific information (chemistry, statistics) as well as true-to-life testimonials.

"This book had to be written," Dayrit says, "to tell medical practitioners, nutritionists, and peoples of Asia in particular, the true story of coconut oil, its numerous health benefits and why it has been maligned all these years. And to be fair, the good and the bad of other fats and oils need to be told."

Get a copy. (Also available at the five-day book fair at World Trade Center near CCP.) You won't be sorry. And thank God for the gift of the glorious coconut.

* * *

Send feedback to cerespd@info.com.ph

The walkout by the minority

THE LONG VIEW

Manuel L. Quezon III

SO it's possible, after all, to squeeze blood from a turnip. The opposition has been hobbled, from day one of the impeachment fight by the actions of lawyer Oliver Lozano. He may not be known as a splendid lawyer, but he certainly has a keen sense of how to hog the headlines. His complaint has hounded the process every step of the way, leading to the legal and linguistic contortions we've seen in the House.

By all accounts, the Black & White forum was supposed to help influence wavering congressmen to sign the amended complaint. At first blush, the forum disappointed most observers. But then the Palace stepped in only to draw more attention to Dinky Soliman's revelations, the most important of which was her claim to having overheard President Macapagal-Arroyo discussing the Lozano complaint with Secretary Gabby Claudio.

As soon as the Palace saw that no documents or hard evidence would be revealed, they proceeded to attack Soliman and friends. Their tactic: reduce the debate to a "he said, she said" series of pots calling kettles black. In such a game, the administration doesn't have to win, it only has to throw enough mud around. That it did.

What neither side gambled on, perhaps, was the ability of the congressmen themselves to put two and two together, and then, the clumsiness of the majority.

More explosive than Soliman's revelation (of the President's instruction for Claudio to deliver an endorser, and Claudio's instant reaction that he had just the right party-list representative in mind) was a reminder that Lozano had also saved then Vice President Arroyo from impeachment by filing a bogus impeachment complaint in 2000. The clincher in the conspiracy theory was the fact that it was Rep. Prospero Pichay, the lead attack dog of the majority, who endorsed Lozano's complaint then. To the observer, this was the most damning detail.

Then there was the case of the impatient engine driver. If the majority had allowed last Tuesday's justice committee hearings to proceed with ample opportunities for the members of the minority to scream and yell, it could then say they were being spoil sports, because the majority could have proceeded with a vote, and then sneered at the minority for failing to come up with the necessary 79 signatures. And it could have argued that there remained the opportunity for the minority to challenge the majority decision in plenary.

Apparently, it did not enter the minds of the members of the majority that they were relying on a committee chair (Rep. Simeon Datumanong) who had already irritated and frustrated his colleagues because of his weak parliamentary skills and, at times, amusing hearing problem. By nature an easy-going sort of fellow, Datumanong forgot he was dealing with young hot-heads.

The clincher was the decision of Datumanong to suspend the debate, thus cutting off Rep. Ace Barbers. Earlier, Datumanong had turned off the microphone on minority representatives when they tried to bring up contentious issues (Soliman's revelation; and the fact that only the "amended" complaint has been properly verified and, therefore, the only one that should be discussed). So Datumanong's scatter-brained and suddenly inflexible behavior was enough to get the minority angry and upset. It was bad politics because he could either have subjected Rep. Robert "Ace" Barbers' motion to a vote, and then asked the minority to make its closing statement.

To make things worse, upon summarily ending the debate, Datumanong moved to put the first of the prejudicial questions to a vote. To top it all, he ignored the last-minute attempts of some minority members to make a motion to adjourn (in parliamentary practice, such a motion trumps all other motions, and cannot be ignored). And so, the walkout. Everyone knew a walkout was an option; it had been discussed for weeks. The majority failed to give the minority an excuse for such a move.

Things then moved so fast that neither those in the Session Hall or those watching on TV or listening to radio quite knew what was going on; ANC immortalized the event as "pandemonium."

Actually, for weeks now, it was said that the minority would do a walkout, either with or without Susan Roces. Rep. Edcel Lagman claims the opposition was set to walk out anyway after the disposition of the second prejudicial question.

So, it means the surprise was that the members of the minority walked out sooner than expected. Why did they do that? Rep. Darlene Custodio's explanation seems quite plausible.

What did the majority do? It hang around, waiting for the minority to come back. Then the minority held a press conference, appealing for signatures, and saying it was fed up and would no longer participate in the committee meeting. The attitude of the minority having been made clear, what did the majority do?

It made the biggest mistake of all. It proceeded to vote on the prejudicial question. It could have waited for cooler heads to prevail. It did not. It proceeded to justify the minority's belief that it was out to railroad events. It held the vote, and won the vote—though some, like Rep. Teodoro Locsin Jr., who remained behind, voted against the motion in disgust (you could clearly see it in Locsin's face as he sat while everyone else stood up to show their approval of the disposition of the prejudicial questions).

When this is all argued and counter-argued in the days to come, the question of the minority's sincerity—was it planning a walkout all along—will be answered by two things: the twitching, angry faces of Custodio and friends, versus the railroaded vote that proceeded even after the minority left the hall.

A scary movie

YOUNG BLOOD

Rory Alcantara

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

I LIKE watching scary movies. It doesn't matter if I enter the theater alone (with popcorn or chips) or if I don't have a friend's hand to hold in fright. So long as the movie can give me a good adrenalin rush and a sudden twist at the end, I feel good. Call it cheap thrills or masochism, but to me, watching a horror movie is no different from a visit to Enchanted Kingdom or Disneyland and braving the roller-coaster rides and going back for more.

When some moviegoers duck for cover before a ghost pops out on the big screen, I excitedly wait for the figure to appear until I am forced to recoil in revulsion or fear and let out a high-pitched scream. Then I can't help but notice how the audience would break into fits of laughter for the way they reacted.

You see, horror films are really top-rate comedy. While hearing ear-splitting screams inside the movie house is funny, everything about the film is even funnier. From the heavy makeups or masks, the costumes, the dim lights, the character actors and the plot itself—horror films are really not terrifying at all.

Do you want to know what is really frightening? Think life. Your life is one big scary movie. The only difference is that your life is not fiction. There is no music that plays on cue in the most dramatic moments, yet every detail of your life is exacting and true. The lack of drum beats or violin serenades do not diminish the real emotions and everyday thrills. You are the star no matter how lousy or how outstanding you portray your role. You have no understudy. Not even when you get sick, or when you feel lazy one morning or you just get tired of yourself and decide to be Angelina Jolie, instead. Sad, but no one can fill in for you even for a second. You are you forever until your last breath.

As if being stuck in your body is not scary enough, you realize that no one can peer in your mind and soul no matter how much you try to give of yourself to others. No one can see right through you. You are simply what people around you perceive and understand you to be.

Try as you may to keep your life very orderly and simple, it just cannot happen in a real world filled with people of varied thinking. Life is one big roller coaster that you ride even against your will. The journey is loaded with misunderstandings. You go on trying to kick away some controversies along the way and throwing away some disappointments, frustrations and insecurities. And when you think you have left them behind, there are more roadblocks to overcome lying along the road.

As the lead character of your own life, you have no choice but to face every day with all the courage you can muster. Time will not slow down for you when you falter at any point. You just have to race with time no matter how often you stumble.

And there's another scary aspect of your life: your inability to influence the hands of time. There are no directors to shout "Cut!" when they deem your performance unsatisfactory. There are no additional takes to polish your moves. It's either you take the plunge right here and now, or you do not budge and stagnate. But whatever your decision, the clock's loud ticking will continually assail your ears until you begin to panic.

But you know what, underneath the frights of life lie not ghosts that pull your feet while you sleep but armors to shield you when you need them. You don't have to shut your eyes or duck for cover when you feel afraid. Just keep them wide open and look around you. You are surrounded by supporting actors and actresses called friends and family. They are life's best source of comfort, the strongest shock absorbers you can find. And though there are no replays to make up for some bad acting, these people will always provide you warmth in this cold, cold world. They will help you learn from your mistakes and do better with every opportunity you get. And although you cannot turn back the hands of time, time unleashes opportunities for you to seize at the right moment.

Life is scary, much scarier than having a ghost following you. The reality of life is overwhelming. Thinking about the uncertainties of our future is enough to give us the jitters and disturb our sleep. We are always waiting with bated breath for our next promotion at work, for Mr. Right, or for the winning lotto combination. The waiting and the anxiety are stressful.

In a horror flick, the lights are kept down to heighten your terror. Whether the scene is inside a house or outside, it always looks dim. But when you're home and scared in real life, you can always switch on the lights and the imagined ghosts will immediately vanish with the flicker of lights.

That's the beauty of life: there are plenty of lights to switch on. The doors to open to make your escape are countless and the windows to greener pastures are not confined to the four corners. After all, life is not limited to a single roll of film that's good for two hours' viewing. It definitely gets much better than that.

Life can really freak you out when you zoom out and view yourself as a microscopic and dispensable dot in this turbulent world. But just zoom in again to realize that life is like a scary movie you watched last week, for it is indeed funny upon closer scrutiny. When you consider all the supporting characters in your life, when you stop thinking of what will happen and begin thinking of your strengths and potentials, when you realize that all your fears and feelings of inadequacy are just in your head, then, just as you laugh at your self after screaming during a horror movie, you will end up laughing at how funny life can be.

Sometimes I wonder why there are people who cannot bring themselves to watch a good thriller. It's just a matter of sitting back, relaxing and controlling your emotions, and soon, without your even noticing it, you are enjoying the suspense.

Life can be just as suspenseful and yet we still manage to enjoy it.

Rory Alcantara, 28, is a BS Management graduate of the Ateneo de Manila University.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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Nation will be more healthy if Filipinos bike to work

IT is comforting to know that the government is finally thinking of other means to reduce oil consumption. By encouraging people to ride their bikes to work, the government will end up with a series of unintentional positive "side effects" that, when put together, will do our country a lot of good.

1. An increase in the number of people on bikes will increase the number of healthier people. This means there will be a decrease in the number of those who will avail themselves of health services, thus removing the need for health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to raise prices every year due to the constant rise in the rate of availments of medical benefits. With the slowdown in HMO price hikes, companies will not be forced to "downgrade" to cheaper HMOs that provide lower-quality medical services. This will directly benefit those employees who truly need the expensive medical services that cheap HMOs cannot provide.

2. Healthier employees also mean there will be fewer absences due to sickness, hence, fewer wasted work hours and missed deadlines.

3. More bikes on the road will result to lesser cars; meaning pollution levels will decrease, even if just a little bit.

4. If enough motorists convert to using bicycles, the demand for gasoline may go down, enough to slow down gasoline price hikes. This will lower the overhead costs of businesses, thus helping them prosper, and also strengthening our economy.

5. A slowdown in gas price increases will also mean a decrease in the cost of living. There are many more I can think of, but these are the five that I think are most important.

—RAYMOND TIANGCO

AVE represents a professional sector

THIS has reference to the front-page article titled "Politicians lobby for party-list groups' accreditation." (PDI, 8/8/05) The author, Jerry Esplanada, claimed there were some party-list groups that should not have been accredited for the 2004 elections. Among these was the Alliance of Volunteer Educators (AVE).

The author even mentioned Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano supposedly admitting that the Commission on Elections allowed questionable party-list groups to take part in the elections. I am concerned with the inclusion of AVE in such a list.

The article further stated that "AVE was known as the Asosasyon para sa Kaunlaran ng Industriya ng Aklat Inc. or Aklat in the two previous elections." AVE is not an offshoot—or has not been in any way part—of any organization. Linking AVE to Aklat is an affront not only to the men and women, young and old, who contributed their blood, sweat and tears for its creation—an effort that took five years—but also to Aklat.

Under the Party List Law, a party-list group that fails to win a seat after two attempts is prohibited from participating in the national elections. Aklat has fallen into this category. The insinuation that Aklat "metamorphosed" into AVE is unfair, to say the least.

Sen. Ramon B. Magsaysay Jr. was also reported to be behind AVE. The senator has nothing to do with AVE, which was founded and conceptualized by Eulogio "Amang" R. Magsaysay, Ging Zonio-Jimenez and me in 1999; and registered with the Securities and Exchange Commission in 2000. AVE sought accreditation on its own, without any political backing.

The article also cited the Supreme Court's decision identifying the sectors that are entitled to party-list seats in Congress, to wit: labor, peasant, fisher folk, urban poor, indigenous cultural communities, elderly, handicapped, women, youth, veterans, overseas workers and professionals. AVE represents a professional group that, as we all know, is marginalized. Indeed, our teachers are underpaid to a point that most of them are living below the poverty threshold. The teachers are the least paid and most neglected group of the professionals. If we are not marginalized or underrepresented, then who is?

—JOSE C. BAESA,
co-founder/national chair,
Alliance of Volunteer
Educators (AVE),
ave_partylist@yahoo.com

I'D like to thank Mr. Baesa for his letter. Just a minor correction though. I never claimed AVE was one of several party-list groups that should not have been accredited for the 2004 polls. In the Aug. 8 story, a Comelec staffer was quoted as having asked why Mr. Baesa's group was allowed to run.

—JERRY ESPLANADA,
PDI reporter

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Iniquitous burden for SSS pensioners?

I WANT to know where and how does one go about knocking at the Olympian doors of the Social Security System when one wants to be enlightened on the new SSS policy which mandates: "All pensioners to have their annual medical check-ups so as not to have their meager pensions suspended."

I want to know who will shoulder the expenses for this annual medical check-up. If the pensioner is the one paying for the medical check-up, it will be an iniquitous burden for the pensioners whose meager pension is not enough to support even their daily needs, especially with the cost of living going up daily.

I view this new policy authoritative, arbitrary and contrary to the aims of the SSS.

The SSS "was established primarily to promote social justice and provide meaningful protection to members and their beneficiaries."

The money legally taken from its members should be given to them without condition as it is their right to get back their money; and it should be with interests or dividends, like what goes to the SSS employees who, though already receiving so much perks, also get dividends from the SSS.

Incidentally, I have not received any increase in my pension.

—MAXIMINO C. BALABBO,
Blk. 19, Lot 5, Phase 2,
Pacita Complex 2,
San Pedro, Laguna

PNOC in solar energy project

WE refer to the editorial titled "Change in lifestyle." (PDI, 8/16/05)

We also believe that using alternative and indigenous sources of energy, like solar energy, will lessen our country's continued dependence on imported oil.

In fact, for more than three years now, the Philippine National Oil Co., in partnership with the Netherlands government, has been implementing a Solar Home Systems (SHS) Distribution Project throughout the Philippines. Under the project, we have installed more than 8,100 units to the benefit of the same number of households.

The solar program (in Negros Oriental) mentioned in the editorial, caught our attention particularly because the PNOC currently operates in that province and the program apparently employs the same scheme as the one used in the PNOC Solar Project.

If the editorial refers to the same solar program we have in Negros Oriental, allow me to volunteer the following additional information.

The solar home system (SHS) units currently sold under the Negros Oriental solar program is a 50-wp system and not a 5-watt system. It was offered by the PNOC, under a collaborative undertaking with the provincial government, at a subsidized price of P19,960 per complete set. The grant of partial subsidy from the Netherlands government was made possible with the participation of the Department of Energy and the PNOC, which have counterpart contributions in the project. The partial grant given by the Netherlands government is applied on the cost of the equipment. The PNOC shoulders the project management costs, forex and other logistical costs, while the DOE takes care of the import duties and taxes.

The provincial government of Negros Oriental, through the initiative of Gov. George Arnaiz, made available P5 million for the program to be used, among others, as guarantee in case of default on the part of "solar borrowers." Since the project's launching in Negros Oriental in February this year, some 266 SHS units have been installed in the province.

Our foremost objective for this clarification is to inform as many people as possible that there are alternatives to conventional oil and fossil-based fuels. Second, we want people to know that the government (through the PNOC, in this particular instance) is doing its share to help make our people's lives better. Third, we want to emphasize the importance of collaboration among government agencies/units; as well as the participation of private entities in ensuring the implementation of a highly sustainable program for the people.

For information about our Solar Home Systems Distribution Project, please call 840-1446 or erd@pnoc.com.ph.

—EDUARDO V. MAÑALAC,
president and chief
executive officer,
Philippine National Oil Co.,
6/F Building 6, Energy Center,
Merritt Road,
Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City

Under a state of martial law

BEARING the brunt of crisis after crisis, the Filipino masses are now being pushed to the point where the only option left for them is to work for genuine structural change. But President Macapagal-Arroyo and her cohorts, desperate to preserve their illegitimate hold on power, are using any and all means to suppress the people's movement for change.

GMA, through her allies, is systematically undermining the people's civil rights: by threatening the imposition of emergency powers, through repressive bills and outright harassment.

Using the "security threat" resulting from the oil crisis as a pretext, Norberto Gonzales and GMA's economic managers stressed the need for GMA to have "emergency powers."

Despite meeting strong objections from civil libertarians and progressive militant mass organizations, the Anti-Terrorism Bill is being pushed by pro-Arroyo lawmakers. After the "Hello Garci" scandal broke out, GMA countered with more civil rights violations. Freedom of expression was curtailed; GMA used the Movie Television Review and Classification Board to muzzle artists, writers, journalists and cultural workers as Marcos did during his fascist rule.

Freedom of the press was violated as her administration threatened the opposition with Article 142 of the Revised Code and the Anti-Wiretapping Act of 1964. Also, radio and TV outfits airing the "Hello Garci" tapes or interviewing progressive and militant figures were threatened with the revocation of their licenses.

Minor offenses, such as the printing and distribution of anti-GMA posters, and the painting of walls with anti-GMA slogans, were treated as full-blown inciting-to-sedition or rebellion cases, and met with the "full force of the law." The "no permit, no rally" policy, a carryover of Marcos' anti-people decrees, which civil libertarians have labeled unconstitutional, has been used to suppress legitimate mass protests.

Of late, GMA has resorted to outright harassment, with her men raiding an oppositionist's house where evidence of her electoral cheating was stored.

By these acts, the Arroyo administration, even without a formal declaration, has in effect placed the Philippines under a state of martial law. Her regime's civil and human rights abuses, including the killing of journalists and human rights advocates, priests and peasant leaders, have exposed her reign of terror.

As artists, writers, cultural workers and journalists, we condemn these human rights abuses. It is our responsibility to protect and promote freedom of expression and other civil rights.

In the face of intensifying economic and political crises, we join ranks and make a common stand with the people.

—VICTORIA DEOCAMPO,
spokesperson
Kontra Busal, SinagBayan
(Sining na naglilingkod sa
Bayan), Amado V. Hernandez
Resource Center,
Concerned Artists of the
Philippines, Sining Bugkos

Chavez's sanction illegal

AFTER DELIBERATION, the Committee on Public Order decided to hold lawyer Francisco I. Chavez in contempt. As his punishment, Chavez was disqualified or disallowed from further appearing for a client in any Senate committee investigation.

My considered opinion, as a lawyer, is that such sanction is illegal, because it violates Sections 11 and 12, Article III (Bill of Rights) of the 1987 Constitution, which guarantee the people "adequate legal assistance" and "to have competent and independent counsel of his own choice." By disqualifying or disallowing Chavez to appear in any Senate committee hearing for a client, the Senate punishes his client, who has done no wrong against it. In effect, it does not restrict the right of Chavez but that of his client, against whom the Senate has no right to punish for contempt. In a manner of speaking, it punishes Juan for the supposed fault of Pedro.

Besides, the Constitution is also clear that only the judiciary has the authority to admit and disqualify lawyers from the practice of law (Sec. 5, par. 5, Article VIII). That authority is exclusively and primarily vested in the judiciary represented by the Supreme Court (Cunanan, et. al., 94 Phil. 534). No other department or agency of the government may arrogate unto itself said authority (Phil. Lawyers' Association vs Agrava, 105 Phil. 174).

The act of the Senate Committee on Public Order, disqualifying or disallowing Chavez to appear before a Senate committee in the pursuit of his legal profession, impertinently encroaches upon the exclusive domain of the judiciary. It is an illegal act.

—REX G. RICO,
Rico & Associates,
4/F Cattleya Condominium,
235 Salcedo St., Legaspi Village,
Makati City

Erratum

IN THE COMMENTARY of Belinda A. Aquino, "UP 'alumna' heads Tokyo university," (PDI, 8/31/05) Prof. Setsuho Ikehata got her Bachelor's degree from the Faculty of Letters at Tokyo University, not Faculty of Law as indicated in the commentary. The author apologizes for the error.—Ed.

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Social Security Commission

DTI Secretary Favila Keynotes SSS Anniversary

Trade and Industry Secretary Peter B. Favila is the guest of honor and keynote speaker during the 48th SSS Anniversary program today, September 1, at the Ramon Magsaysay Hall of the SSS Main Office in Quezon City.

Passionate about Pensioners' Day

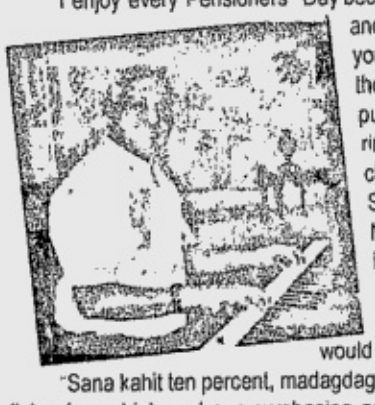
Roberto Y. Delos Santos is an SSS retirement pensioner who revels in his age. A youthful-looking 67-year old, Bobby is gregarious and laughs easily. Though already a grandfather of 11, he is trim and healthy, and is fastidious about his appearance. A certified Electronics Engineer, Bobby worked mainly in television and broadcast stations. In 1974, he was included in a government-to-government exchange program, wherein he was posted in Papua New Guinea and was even sent to Australia to train in computer electronics. While abroad, Bobby also honed his piano-playing skills, which he had learned since childhood.

When he came back to the Philippines in 1986, he worked in piano bars and played in hotel lobby lounges. Since he was nearing 60, he decided to continue paying his SSS contributions as a Voluntary Member.

In January 2003, he filed his SSS Retirement Claim. Since then, he has enjoyed a monthly pension of P2,400, which he budgets to meet his needs.

In February 2004, he learned about the SSS Pensioners' Day Program. A naturally sociable person, Bobby thought it would be fun to meet fellow pensioners. Since then, he has been a regular fixture every Pensioners' Day at the SSS Main Office, joining the various activities and even forming a "barkada" of pensioners who share his easy-going and boisterous ways.

"I enjoy every Pensioners' Day because I love meeting people. Laughing and having fun really keeps me feeling young. I also learn something new from the lectures and the Pensioner's News publication," Bobby enthused. "Malaki rin ang pakinabang ko sa mga medical check-ups and free vitamins that the SSS offers every Pensioners' Day. Nakakatulong talaga ang programang ito sa aming mga pensyonado."



Like other SSS pensioners, Bobby hopes that his monthly pension would be increased soon.

"Sana kahit ten percent, madagdagan na ang pension namin. The cost of living is so high and our purchasing power is so low," Bobby said. "But I understand the situation that SSS is now in. Hindi pa talaga nila kaya magbigay ng dagdag sa pension. OK lang para sa akin ang maghintay pa ng konti. I know the SSS is trying its best to improve itself, and I think it is doing a good job so far. We can only hope for the best for SSS."

Taking care of our Modern-day Heroes

The SSS is increasing its efforts in extending membership coverage to even more OFWs – our country's modern-day heroes. As of June 2005, a total of 636,224 OFWs are registered SSS members and who benefit from security in times of sickness, maternity, disability, retirement and death.

To ensure that OFWs and Filipino citizens around the globe have access to SSS and its services, bilateral social security agreements with host countries are continuously explored and signed. This year, agreements were signed with the South African Embassy and the International Committee for the Red Cross for the SSS coverage of their respective Filipino employees, while initial talks were made with South Korean officials for the social security coverage of both Filipino and South Korean citizens.

The SSS Flexi-Fund Program also continues to help OFWs plan their financial future. During their employment abroad, OFW-members must contribute to the regular SSS program at the maximum salary credit, with any excess amount not less than P200 credited to their Flexi-Fund account. Through recent enhancements in the Flexi-Fund guidelines, pre-termination fees are now imposed on withdrawals of contributions that have been in the Fund for less than one year. This is to encourage savings preservation, since longer periods of retention enables OFW-members to take full advantage of the higher interest rates. Currently, the Flexi-Fund stands at P73.6 million, gathered from contributions of its 50,365 OFW-members.

SOCIAL SECURITY SYSTEM
Kabalikat mo sa Buhay
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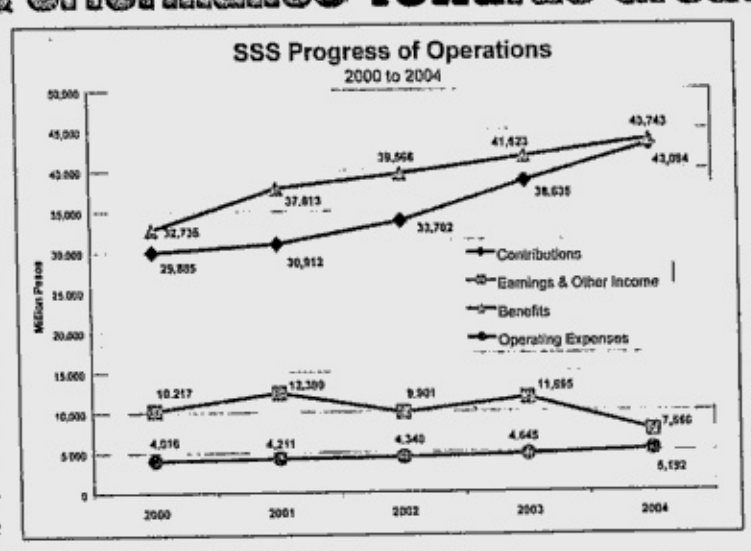
Today, September 1, 2005, the SSS celebrates its 48th Anniversary with the theme, *"SSS: Serving the Filipino at Home and Around the World"*. The theme highlights the impact of SSS, its benefits, and services on the lives of its over 25 million members, and in particular, the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW). This renewed focus on OFW-members is most apt, considering that these foreign-based workers form an important pillar of the Philippine economy and society through their hard work, self-sacrifice, and valuable dollar remittances. The Anniversary theme celebrates the role of SSS as an ally of all working Filipinos – whether at home or abroad – a strong shoulder upon which they can rely, as they build the foundation for a better life for themselves, their families, and for the nation.

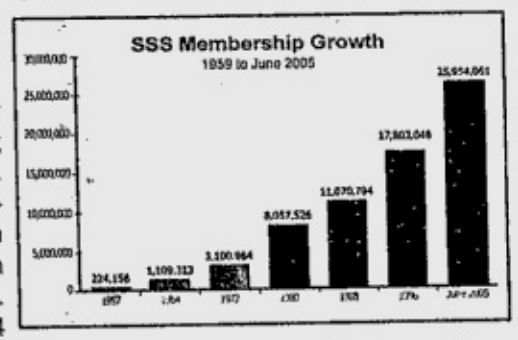
At present, the SSS is setting the stage for renewing and rebuilding itself, though its **Four Pillars of Good Governance: fiscal viability, sound investments, quality service,** and **corporate culture.** Under the stewardship of President and Chief Executive Officer Corazon S. de la Paz and the guidance of the Social Security Commission, headed by Chairman Thelmo Y. Cunanan, the SSS is looking forward to meeting its half-century mark stronger, more responsive and better performing than ever before.

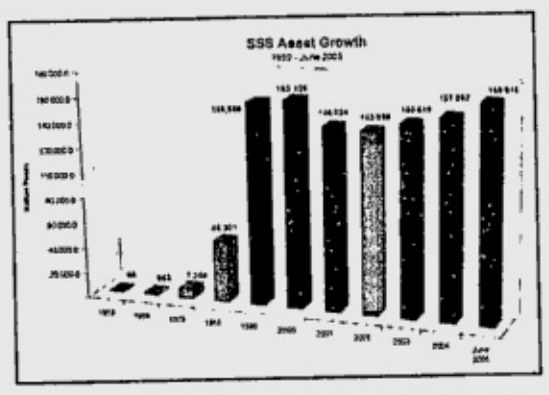
Turnaround Performance Towards Greater Stability

The SSS has finally gained some headway in its efforts to ensure long-term fund viability. As of end-December 2004, the SSS was able to post a robust P2.6 billion net profit. By the first half of 2005, net revenues jumped 375 percent to P3 billion, compared to P628 million earned from January to June 2004. More importantly, the most recent actuarial valuation now puts the fund life to last until year 2027 (assuming no annual across-the-board pension increases are given). This means that twelve years were effectively added to the SSS fund life.



There are many factors that led to this record-breaking turnaround of SSS finances. Foremost of these is the one-percentage point increase in members' contributions, which has been in force since 2003. Though the resulting 9.4 percent contribution rate is significantly smaller than the one SSS had hoped Malacañang would approve, it nonetheless helped in raising overall contribution collections. More so when coupled with reforms in the SSS collection system as well as earnest efforts in cleaning up delinquent loan accounts, and implementing cost-cutting measures in its operations.





But over and above these, the SSS turnaround would not have been possible had it not been for the understanding and cooperation of its members and stakeholders.

The SSS will need their continued support as it advocates for a more realistic adjustment in its contribution rate to restore financial viability.

Assets and Investments

As of end of June 2005, the SSS consolidated assets totaled to P189.1 billion. Some P169.9 billion of this amount is invested in various investment instruments, earning for the SSS an average of 7.1 percent return on investment.

Benefits

From January to June 2005, SSS (including Employees' Compensation) paid out a total of P23.38 billion in benefits to some 1.63 million members and their beneficiaries. Over the past 48 years, the SSS has paid out a total of P399.3 billion worth of benefits.

Membership Coverage

As of June 2005, SSS has a total of 25.95 million members, comprising of employees (20.67 million), employers (748,714), and self-employed and voluntary members (5.28 million). It also currently has a total of 1,004,846 SS and EC pensioners.

Contributions

Contribution collections from January to June 2005 reached P23.14 billion, an increase of 7.3 per cent from the P21.5 billion collected in the same period of 2004. From 1957 to June 2005, cumulative SSS contributions have amounted to P392.7 billion.

Service Network

The SSS has expanded to 160 branch offices throughout the Philippines. To enable SSS to reach out to the Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs), it now has 15 offices throughout Asia, Europe, Middle East and America.

Expanding and Improving Services for Members

The SSS does not lose sight of the fact that service to its members remains its primary duty. It continues to roll out service initiatives that aim to make the experience of transacting with the SSS all the more convenient, pleasant and speedier for members. The SSS is also conscious of the fact that much still has to be done to extend its coverage and service to other sectors of society, if it is to achieve its mandate of providing social security protection that is equitable, just and universal.

Service delivery within the promised time

The Covenant of Service (COS) is SSS' pledge to members to significantly reduce the processing time of benefit claims and loans, and to provide services as quickly as possible.

SSS, just a text or click away

Members can now access their number of contributions, check their loan eligibility and status of loan applications – all via text messages on their mobile phones, or through the Online Inquiry System at *www.sss.gov.ph*.

Direct payments, faster posting

From its initial installation at the SSS Main Office, the Tellering System has gone nationwide, with direct payments for contributions and loans currently accepted at 18 branches, and at 23 more branches to follow within the year.

Continuing Commitment to Reforms

Like many pension institutions across the world, the SSS faces some difficult challenges in the area of reform. International organizations like the International Labor Organization and the World Bank recognize that pension system modifications are now on the political agenda of most countries. Even the International Social Security Association (ISSA), of which SSS President Corazon de la Paz is the current president, advocates that pension reforms must be instituted to make them individually affordable and fiscally sustainable, as well as to prevent further deterioration of pension systems.

On the part of SSS, it has made a commitment to re-evaluating and reforming its policies and processes to improve its services and to ensure the viability of its social security program. Hence, it is undertaking a three-phase study, under a World Bank-ASEM Grant, to identify and implement actions to rationalize the pension system.

SSS explores agreement with South Korea. SSS President & CEO Corazon de la Paz and EVP Horacio T. Templo (seated, middle and left, respectively) met with South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Division Director Jang Myung-Soo (seated, right) and drafted a bilateral agreement that would provide social security protection to residents of both countries. President de la Paz, who is the first Asian and woman president of the ISSA, leads the campaign for the social protection of citizens and migrant workers around the world.

Paying the right benefits to the right beneficiaries

The Annual Confirmation of Pensioners Program is part of the reforms aimed at ensuring that correct benefits are paid out to the rightful beneficiaries. Pensioners are required to present themselves to the SSS or to submit proofs of their eligibility to receive pensions.

Amending the SSS Charter

In order to restore the viability and ensure the fiscal soundness of the SSS, its Charter must be reviewed for possible amendments.

Among others, there is a need to amend the provision on minimum pension guarantees, coverage and minimum qualifying conditions so that SSS can align program benefits more closely to contributions. The Charter also should provide for clear and explicit actuarial standards that would define a minimum fund life or adequate funding level so that members are aware when benefits may be enhanced and when contribution rates must be raised.

At present, the Social Security Commission has recommendatory powers on these matters, subject to approval of the President of the Philippines. But as shown by past experience, benefit enhancements were acted upon immediately and favorably, while proposals for contribution rate increases were not.

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Illegal logging reappears in Quezon

By Blanche S. Rivera

ALMOST a year after the tragic flash floods that killed hundreds of people and displaced thousands of families in the province, illegal logging is back in Quezon.

A raid by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources in Barangay Bagumbayan in Mauban, Quezon last weekend yielded 38,000 board feet of hard wood worth P4.2 million.

The seized timber, including narra, yakal and other hardwood dipterocarp species for furniture-making, came from as far as Isabela and Cagayan provinces in Cagayan Valley, DENR director for special concerns Nilo Tamuria said in his report.

Tamuria said the illegal logs belonged to Roselyn Banagan, a known logging operator who already has three illegal logging cases filed against her by the DENR; Martin Tampoc; and the Mauban Furniture Cooperative.

He said Mauban has become a frequent route of trucks carrying illegal timber usually from parts of Cagayan Valley and the Umiray Watershed in Bulacan.

"Mauban has become the center of illegal logging operations," Environment Secretary Michael Defensor said in a press briefing yesterday.

The 10-wheel truck carrying the illegal logs was apprehended by the DENR as it was plying the Mauban national highway because it matched the description of a vehicle used for timber smuggling in Quezon, according to the DENR report.

Truck driver Rogelio Unlayaw was the same driver arrested by the DENR team in October last year for driving an Isuzu truck carrying undocumented lumber. Unlayaw was out on bail, Defensor said.

It was Unlayaw who disclosed the operators' warehouses in Sitio Sabang, Barangay Bagumbayan where the rest of the illegal logs were seized.

Defensor, who imposed a log ban nationwide except for three regions, said police in Mauban could have been party to the transport of illegal logs.

"It's a very small town. It's impossible that they do not know this. The police station is right at the mouth of the highway. It's very near the entry and exit to the town. They can see everyone who's coming in and going out," he said.

Defensor said he would write a "strong letter" to the Philippine National Police leadership to ensure that police officials in areas where illegal logging operations remain prevalent are relieved.

Quezon environment authorities said the volume of the seized timber was 20,000 board feet worth P750,000.

Another 12,000 board feet of illegal lumber was seized at two warehouses owned by Martin Tampoc and Rosalyn Banagan, the Quezon authorities said.

Eladio Pasamba, Quezon board member, had pointed to a syndicate known as Mauban Boys as behind illegal logging in the province. *With a report from Delfin Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

JEOFFREY MAITEM/PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

DESTITUTE
A homeless man takes his lunch on Sinsuat Avenue in Cotabato City, one of several dozens of people in the city who call the streets their home.

ROUNDUP

Holiday in ARMM today

COTABATO CITY—Today has been declared a non-working holiday in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao (ARMM). The occasion, known as Israwal Miraj, is considered sacred among Muslims as they commemorate Prophet Mohammad's ascension into heaven, said regional director Kadatuan Indaila of the Office on Muslim Affairs. Under Presidential Decree 1083, issued by then President Ferdinand Marcos, Israwal Miraj is one of the five recognized Muslim holidays, the OMA chief said. It is also believed that it was the day Prophet Mohammad decreed the daily five obligatory prayers among the first Islam believers, he said. Indaila said true Muslims all over the world are expected to flock to various mosques for their congregational prayer. Some private schools in the region announced that there will be classes today, but declared a holiday for their students the following day, which is a Friday to, allow a long weekend. *Charlie Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Rebs kill village chief

COTABATO CITY—New People's Army guerrillas shot dead a village chieftain and wounded a bystander in Columbio in Sultan Kudarat province on Sunday. Police said Ishmael Tambles, 53, chair of Barangay Sucod, was walking home when shot by the communist rebels. Bystander Jerry Valdez was wounded when hit by stray bullets. The NPA later distributed leaflets around town saying they killed Tambles for allegedly committing atrocities against peasants in his village. *Edwin Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

19 passengers rescued

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The Navy rescued 19 passengers and crew of a small vessel off Melville Island in Balabac, Palawan. The ML Jupay, which has been missing since Aug. 21, was drifting to the South China Sea when the search and rescue operations of the Naval Forces West based in Palawan found them on Aug. 24 in about 12.5 nautical miles southwest of Melville Island in Balabac. Navforwest commander Captain Geronimo Defensor said the vessel reportedly left Andalawan, Balabac in the morning of Aug. 17, bound for Mangsee Island but failed to reach its destination because of engine trouble. It was since drifting outside Philippine waters. The Air Force's OV-10 and Navy Islander PNI 310 spotted the vessel. ML Jupay was towed to mainland Balabac and the passengers and crew were turned over to the municipal government. *Jofelle Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

German found dead

SORSOGON CITY—Fishermen found a German national dead in a beach resort here on Sunday. City police chief Supt. Saadra Gani said the body of Wolfgang Winkler Plum, 38 and a resident of Duren, Merzenich, Bundesrepublic, Germany, bore two stab wounds in the stomach, when it was found at the Dioneda's Beach Resort in Barangay Caricaran, Bacon District. Initial investigation showed that the victim had a drinking spree with some acquaintances, who had yet to be identified by the police. Ann Espano, the former live-in partner of the victim who was helping police in the investigation, said Plum was an alcoholic but friendly. Espano and the police were considering possible robbery because the victim's cell phone was missing. *Bobby Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

Dog death squad

TUBOD, Lanao del Norte—To prevent another strike of stray dogs in its town, the local government of Magsaysay town has formed a sort of "dog death squad" to eliminate canines that have no known owners. Mayor Harun Omar said the squad is mostly composed of volunteers. Last week, 23 residents were bitten by stray dogs and they had to be injected with anti-rabies vaccines. The formation of the "dog death squad" came as the town government strongly urged residents to keep their pet dogs in cages at home, and if possible have them vaccinated. As of Saturday, six stray dogs have been killed by volunteers with the aid of Marines. *Ryan Rosauro, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Dolphins stranded in Cagayan beach

TUGUEGARAO CITY—At least 10 dolphins, five of them wounded, were stranded in a beach in Sta. Ana, Cagayan, on Monday, reports from Navy personnel and fisheries officials said.

Venchito Villarao, senior chief aquaculturist of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources here, said five dolphins, which belong to the species of pygmy killer whales (*Feresa attenuata*), had peso coin-size wounds in their heads and several cuts in their bodies.

Villarao said Navy personnel stationed at Barangay San Vicente in Sta. Ana saw the dolphins near the village's coastline on Monday morning.

But when Villarao and two veterinarians from BFAR came to check on the condition of the marine mammals, the wounded dolphins swam toward the other five in deeper waters.

Last month, Villarao said, Navy personnel in the area found four wounded dolphins near their base in the village.

He said the dolphins' wounds indicated that they had been victimized by armed hunters.

"The presence of these dolphins in Barangay San Vincente and in Fuga and Dalupiri islands shows that these areas are the real habitat of these marine animals," he said.

He said Cagayan's northern waters have rich biodiversity and these areas have been identified as feeding grounds of dolphins and humpback whales.

According to the website of the National Geographic, the pygmy killer whale is a member of the dolphin family and resembles a stereotypical dolphin, but without the beak. *Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Masbate governor acquitted of rival's slay

By Tarra V. Quismundo

SIXTEEN years of being tried for the murder of a political foe ended in victory for Masbate Gov. Antonio Kho, when a Makati court acquitted him from a murder case last week.

Through an order of Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 141 Judge Manuel Victorio, Kho was cleared of murder charges lodged against him for the slaying of Moises Espinosa Sr. in 1989.

Kho, who was out on bail during the trial, had been accused of being the mastermind in the murder of Espinosa, then Masbate representative who was gunned down at the Masbate City airport on March 17, 1989. Kho was then mayor of the province's Cataingа town.

"... In all criminal prosecution, the burden of proof to prove the guilt of the accused lies upon the prosecution. The degree of proof is beyond reasonable doubt. Absent proof beyond reasonable doubt, accused need not present evidence to prove his [innocence] because that is presumed," said Victorio in his order dated Aug. 22.

Kho was acquitted after the court granted the governor's demurrer to evidence, where he cited that the prosecution failed to establish his involvement in the murder. He had also been charged with the murder of Espinosa's brother Tito, also a Masbate representative who was killed in 1995 in Quezon City.

Trial would meanwhile continue for the others who were charged with Espinosa's murder, including former Masbate vice mayor Florencio Fernandez Jr. who is out on bail, one Nonilon Bagalihog, Zaldy Dumalag who is being tried even while he had jumped bail, Jaime Liwanag, and identified gunman Jimmy Cabarles.

The court continued trial against Liwanag and Cabarles even while they were reported dead as it has yet to receive their death certificates. Two other accused, Ronnie Fernandez and Rene Tualla, remain at large, court records said.

Former Masbate assemblyman Julio "Jolly" Fernandez was also among the accused, but charges against him were dismissed after he was assassinated in 1991.

In a demurrer to evidence filed in October last year, Kho's counsels said "the prosecution failed to overcome the presumption of innocence beyond reasonable doubt on the basis of its own evidence."

Missing monument seen key to boundary disputes

By Delmar Cariño
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

TUBA, Benguet—A missing monument erected by Americans in 1911 at the common boundary of La Union, Pangasinan and Benguet may yet be the key to the unresolved territorial disputes that have strained relations between the three provinces.

Particularly concerned on the search for the monument are this town, Rosario in La Union and Sison in Pangasinan where hectares of lands are involved and incomes in terms of internal revenue allotment are at stake.

Tuba Councilor Blas Dalus said the Department of Environment and Natural Resources had been searching for the monument like a "treasure" for the last 10 years.

Its discovery could help in determining the extent of political boundaries, geographical divisions and survey tie lines for the provinces concerned, he said.

Dalus, the town council's committee chair on environment, land and boundary, said the monument is officially called "Provincial Boundary Monument No. 9" (PBM No. 9), and was established by the Americans during the colonial years.

The concrete monument, he said, was meant to delineate the political boundaries of Pangasinan, La Union and the old Mt. Province, which then included Benguet.

Based on information gathered by the town council, Dalus said the monument was believed to have been put up on a common boundary that now forms part of Barangay Saitan in Rosario town.

Considering the time that had passed, the monument could have been destroyed or buried in rocks, he said.

"In fact, we have a suspicion that the monument is underneath the Bued River," Dalus said, referring to the river that snakes alongside Kennon Road down to Rosario and Sison.

Dalus said Rosario, Sison and this town had coordinated with the DENR's land management services for the search of the monument.

He said of the province's 13 towns, Tuba has the most boundary dispute cases. It has also boundary problems with Pugo, La Union; Sison, Pangasinan; Baguio City and Itogon town.

These disputes involve 11,500 hectares of land, Dalus said.

He said it was in the course of negotiations to solve these land issues with the local governments concerned that the existence of PBM No. 9 was revealed.

This town, a second class municipality, has 36,000 residents in 13 barangays. Its land area spans at least 29,000 hectares.

Question of the Week

Choose one: (1) President Arroyo should be impeached; (2) Impeachment process will not succeed, street protests should oust President; or, (3) President Arroyo is doing fine and should complete her term. (Pls. explain vote)

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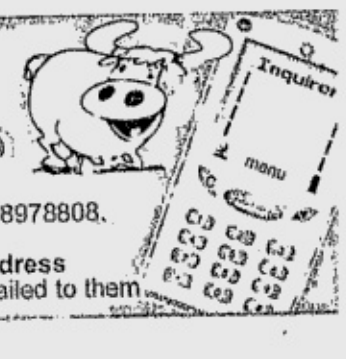

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INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

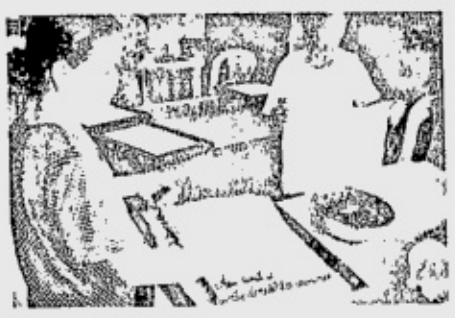
Editor Jun Bandayrel
Bureau Chief Floreño G. Solmirano

CUTTING the cogon grass and the banana trunk

PLACING the cut materials in a vat filled with water and chemical for boiling

PLACING the pulp inside sack. The sack is washed with water.

PRESSING to squeeze excess water



FLATTENING

Paper trail
for changing women's lives

By Delfin T. Mallari Jr.
Real, Quezon

FROM a mixture of hemp, tree bark, grass and water, all mashed into pulp and hung to dry under the sun, Ts'ai Lun invented the first paper in China centuries ago.

In the roadside village of Kiloloron, Real, Quezon, facing the Pacific Ocean, the same paper-making craft has been revived and for the past eight years, it has changed the lives of more than 40 women born to deprivation and misery.

"Hardin ng Kalikasan has really changed our lives, as well as our families'. It provides us opportunities for an alternative source of livelihood. It also teaches us to respect nature," said Avelina Bugtong, bookkeeper of the Women's Multi-Purpose Cooperative in Kiloloron.

The cooperative operates the "Hardin ng Kalikasan," a women's livelihood program initiated by Sr. Anne Brittain eight years ago.

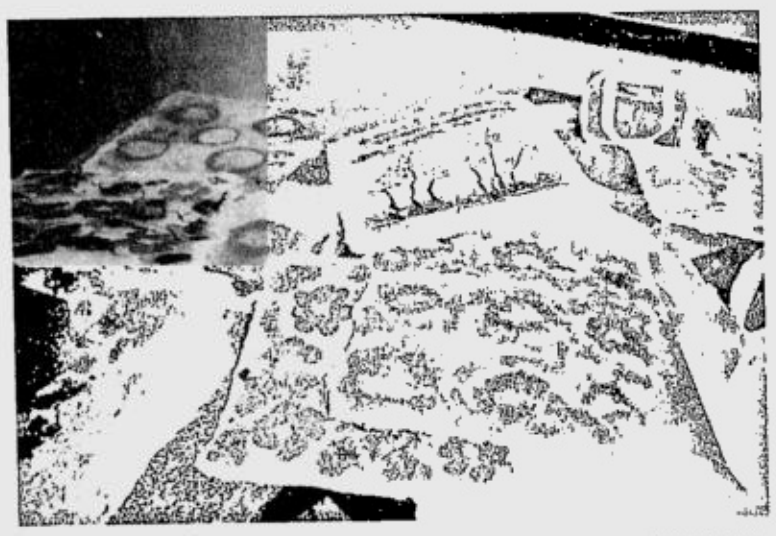
Sister Anne is an English sister of Sion, who has been working in the Philippines since 1995. The Sisters of Sion came to the Philippines in 1990 and immediately worked with the rural poor, particularly women.

Hardin's beneficiaries are women who have mastered the ancient craft of creating handmade paper and turning them into ingenious personalized cards. Their husbands are poor fishermen, laborers, masons, carabao keepers, loggers and jobless men.

From fallen banana trunks, cogon grass and water hyacinth, the women create unique, original and customized handmade paper adorned with nature-inspired designs.

With special colors, the paper pieces are transformed into holiday cards, invitations, photo albums, picture frames and bags, among many other items.

Most of the paper products have been exported to several countries where environment-friendly items are the trend.



FINISHED products

PHOTOS BY DELFIN T. MALLARI, JR.

'Kumare'

Way back in 1995, the humdrum existence of many women in the village caught the attention of Sister Anne, Bugtong said. Financial assistance through the formation of the "Kilos Unlad ng Mamamayan ng Real" (Kumare), was extended to the women who were encouraged to engage in livelihood projects for their families.

"But sad to admit, most of the beneficiaries forgot to pay," the bookkeeper said. She said Sister Anne decided to embark on another livelihood project—card making.

"We bought commercial paper from Manila and created various cards using colored chalks, dried forest leaves and other indigenous items as raw materials for the nature-inspired designs," Bugtong said.

The initial venture did not prosper.

Perseverance

In 1997, the ever-optimistic nun invited representatives from the Cottage Industry Technology Center of the Department of Trade and Industry to train the village women how to make handmade paper.

"We used the deep wooden mortar to pound the materials into soft paper pulp," Bugtong recalled.

It was a difficult undertaking at the outset and a number of women were forced to quit.

"Out of the initial 40 participants, only eight stayed and persisted. The problem then was the lack of market for handmade paper," Bugtong said.

After more training sessions conducted by several groups and government agencies, the women learned how to make all-season cards, invitations and other designs from handmade paper. "That was when we started to earn a little money, especially when we were able to secure a quota from abroad," Bugtong said.

Each worker receives P700 to P900 a week, plus overtime pay.

Bugtong said one of their foreign clients placed an order for Christmas cards as early as January. "We are all busy when the Christmas season approaches. Lots of job orders."

Christmas designs

Bugtong categorized their Christmas cards into biblical and non-biblical designs. Non-biblical refers to candles, stars, and other popular Christmas symbols as designs.

However, most of their products are not appreciated locally, unlike the passionate reception they get abroad, Bugtong lamented.

Fe Villarin, now on her 7th year with Hardin, designs paper with colored tiny strips of coconut and banana fibers. "Before, I did not know how to make designs. But through constant practice, producing artistically designed handmade paper eventually became easy," she said.

Stressing the women's collective effort in every product, the printed brochure attached to every item partly reads: "Women are the artists and creators and when they come together on common task, they strengthen and encourage each other; share stories and problems; dream and weave a future beyond present harsh realities."

"By choosing to buy from us, you are helping to support 47 women and their families in an economically deprived area of the country."

The women themselves, in a fitting tribute to nature, named the company Hardin ng Kalikasan.

Gorta

Sister Anne's sincerity in helping uplift the lives of the villagers can be seen in her letters to Gorta, one of the leading Irish charities working in Third World countries and one of the avid supporters of the project. In her September 2003 letter, she wrote:

"Most people prefer life in 'the province' as we call the areas outside the capital region. The air is fresher, some planting can be done and expenses are less. However steady income from the sea is difficult to come by ... We say we don't really know how families survive day-to-day; adaptability, creativity and ingenuity play a big part."

She noted that one way of helping village families to survive is through the regular salary the women receive for their work in the cooperative. "It enables them to plan a little as they know that their income is sure."

"Nothing but 'on the job' listening and responding has prepared me for my present role in the women's cooperative! Regular, salaried employment is very hard to find, particularly in the more remote areas of the country," she said in the letter.

She described the visits to the shops by overseas guests as "a good chance to practice sales talk in English."

"This is needed also at the American Embassy and American Women's Bazaars, which we attend five times a year in Manila," she said.

Renewable resources

Sister Anne explained that card-making and subsequently handmade paper-making were initially chosen as possible income-generating activities because people expressed interest in skills training.

She also noted that renewable raw materials, such as cogon grass and banana trunks, were available locally.

Handmade paper-making is very labor-intensive, Sister Anne said, but the women shared all the tasks of chopping, cooking the fiber and washing, in rotation.

"The aspect of creativity in the design papers stops the work from becoming routine although it is hard. A different group of women make the cards in their own time at home," she said.

She said they were fortunate to receive the donation of a pulping machine and large cooking vat in 1998.

"Gradually the project has grown and diversified along with the developing skills of the women and the help of a trainer from the Beso (British Executive Services Overseas). Other overseas funding has enabled us to erect a purpose-built workplace and we are hoping gradually to fabricate more women-friendly equipment," she said.

The Hardin's main shop also serves as office of the women's cooperative.

The Hardin ng Kalikasan can be reached through 042-331-1330 or e-mail address: sion@info.com.ph.

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6 votes shy to impeach President Arroyo

From page A1

there no one else who will sign for the truth?" Reyes told the hushed assembly.

Reyes then strode out, leaving an envelope which contained blank endorsements "for any member of the House who wishes to side with the truth."

Work double time

"It's going to be a race against time," said Rep. Darlene Antonino-Custodio. The South Cotabato representative said the opposition had to work double time through the weekend to reach the magic number of 79 before the House begins a plenary session for a final decision on the issue on Monday.

Opposition efforts to bring Ms Arroyo to trial for allegedly stealing last year's election received a boost on Tuesday when Rep. Cynthia Villar of Las Piñas sent her resolution of endorsement to the impeachment team.

Villar's vote was regarded as critical. She and her husband, Sen. Manuel Villar, revived the moribund Nacionalista Party which now has 18 House members.

Reyes explained that he and his colleagues had withdrawn from the committee proceedings because Ms Arroyo's allies had denied "our simple request" to consolidate three impeachment complaints against the President.

"All that the proimpeachment group had been asking is the chance to uncover evidence to allow us to make a fair and just resolution of this simple question: Did the President lie, cheat and steal?" said Reyes.

Lawmakers have said that the majority had planned to junk the impeachment move before Ms Arroyo leaves for abroad in mid-September for a UN summit in New York. The majority was prevented from doing so when the committee pushed ahead to settle issues blocking the squashing of the case against Ms Arroyo.

Reyes said that on Tuesday, "our worst fears started to unfold."

"Before we push our people to the wall and leave them with no alternative, I ask you to consolidate all the complaints. Consider the form and substance in this single proceeding and allow the evidence to be brought out and examined, so that a just resolution on these issues can be made," he said.

Iloilo Rep. Rolex Suplico told students from the UP National College of Public Administration yesterday that Malacañang was willing to "offer anything to survive."

He added that two lawmakers who said they would sign the complaint backed out after Malacañang appointed their brothers to government positions.

Cebu Rep. Clavel Martinez, a member of the ruling Lakas-CMD, said that the President called her "several times" asking her to withdraw her signature but she refused.

"Malacañang is bent on killing the impeachment. Malacañang is throwing everything at us, including the kitchen sink and the toilet bowl," Suplico said.

Laguna Rep. Justin Chipeco admitted that the opposition waited until the early morning hours yesterday for more signatories to the complaint.

A difficult day

"This is a very difficult day for us because they are planning to kill the impeachment complaint," he said.

"A congressman who was about to sign the impeachment backed out after his brother was appointed a trial judge. Another congressman, who used to tell us he was willing to sign (also backed out) after a brother was likewise appointed head of a government agency," Suplico added.

He said that another lawmaker, this time from the opposition, was offered P2 million.

"When he refused, it was raised to P3 million," he said.

Standing up to be counted

Martinez said the President, whom she described as her friend, and other administration officials also tried to convince her to withdraw her signature.

"I still am a Lakas party member. I have not resigned. And I have been talked to by the President herself. She called me many times," Martinez said.

"I have been asked to withdraw my support of the impeachment but I said no because for me, this is something where we all should make a stand," she added.

She said administration officials kept on "manipulating everything in government, including money in government in order to buy off people who they can use."

"(The President) wants to get what she wants and just doesn't care at all. It's me, me, me, me," she said.

"This is not the kind of government we would like to give as a legacy to our children, to the young people. So we are standing up and being counted," Martinez added.

Suplico said that the proimpeachment camp had also "compartmentalized" their campaign to get more signatures after realizing that the administration had a mole in their ranks.

"We have resorted to compartmentalization because our ranks appear to be infiltrated. There are people in the opposition who are telling the administration what is happening inside," Suplico said.

Suplico said that he and his colleagues first noticed that they had been infiltrated when they learned that the administration immediately knew the number of their votes after they filed the amended complaint.

"What is hard in this game is even our cell phones might be bugged. So we have our own (telephone) hot lines," he said.

President's men uphold Lozano complaint, then kill it

From page A1

rated in the original Oliver Lozano complaint."

Voting 50-4 with one abstention, the justice committee ruled at 3:44 p.m. that only the Lozano complaint—the weakest among the three but the first to be filed (June 27)—had complied with the constitutional requirement and jurisprudence governing impeachment proceedings.

Administration Representatives Teodoro Locsin, Antonio Roman, Laurence Wacnang and Jesus Crispin Remulla voted against, while Rep. Romualdo Vicencio abstained.

Two-and-a-half hours after junking the amended complaint, the justice committee voted 46 in favor (with one abstention, Makati Rep. Agapito "Butz" Aquino) to declare the Lozano complaint sufficient in form.

The committee said the complaint met the constitutional requirements that it should be properly verified and endorsed by a lawmaker.

In a final act last night, however, the committee voted 49-1 with two abstentions to trash the Lozano complaint for being "grossly" insufficient in substance.

The vote ended the impeachment proceedings at the committee, which will now submit a report to the plenary on Monday, according to the committee chair, Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong.

Minus the pros

Yesterday's voting took place despite the absence of proimpeachment lawmakers.

They walked out of Tuesday's impeachment hearing following the decision of Datumanong to end debates on whether the amended complaint was "separate and distinct" from the other two.

The proimpeachment lawmakers had said Datumanong's decision was a prelude to the dismissal of the amended complaint.

Yesterday's voting was a reprise of what occurred later Tuesday, when administration lawmakers reconvened the hearing despite the walkout and voted to treat the Lozano complaint as a "separate" complaint.

Asked about the effect of yesterday's vote on the move to impeach Ms Arroyo for alleged cheating in the 2004 election, House Minority Leader Francis Escudero said: "What happened was a sham, a mockery of constitutional process."

Locsin said Tuesday that excluding the amended complaint in favor of the Lozano complaint would be "like poisoning the tiger in the cage and sending the mouse to the arena."

Explaining his "no" vote yesterday, Locsin said the proceedings were a Roman circus in which the mouse was sent to the arena to be "strangled."

He said what was confronting the nation was the "desperation of the opposition to unseat the President [and] the desperation of the President to hang on to her chair at any price."

Weakest, most defective

Escudero said that by dismissing the Lopez and the amended complaints, the administration lawmakers "proved themselves capable of being arrogant while in power."

"That's in accordance with their plan," he said.

But when asked if all was lost, Escudero said the pros would "pursue" the required 79 signatures and would make their last stand at the plenary on Monday.

"Our last chance of making this constitutional process work is if we can get 79 lawmakers to endorse the amended complaint," he said.

Escudero said that from Day One, as part of the alleged kill-impeachment plot, the majority had selected the "weakest and most defective" complaint, then later dismissed it for being insufficient in form and substance.

"Only the amended complaint complied with form and substance," said the Sorsogon lawmaker who was laid low by flu the past week. "That's why we had been arguing against the discussion of prejudicial questions—because the amended complaint would face a technical knockout."

But Cuenco said that far from suppressing the truth and railroading the process, the committee's decision was in accord with the constitutional provision barring the filing of a similar complaint against the same impeachable official within a year.

He said it was also based on prevailing jurisprudence, as in the Supreme Court ruling on Francisco vs the House of Representatives.

One-year bar rule

According to Deputy Majority Leader Edcel Lagman, justice committee vice chair, the Lozano complaint "indubitably bars the subsequent Lopez and amended complaints" in terms of filing and referral.

"In time, the Lozano complaint was initiated ahead of both the Lopez complaint and the amended complaint by 10 minutes," he said. "Perforce, the complaint initiated first bars the next and subsequent complaints. This is both the spirit and language of the constitutional one-year bar rule."

Lagman pointed out that the Lozano complaint was filed first on June 27, followed by the Lopez complaint on July 4, and the amended complaint on July 25.

As for the referral of the complaints to the justice committee, he said it would be "grossly inaccurate" to say that the three were referred simultaneously: "They were not. They were referred one after the other in the chronology of their filing."

On Tuesday, Camarines Sur Rep. Arnulfo Fuentebella questioned whether Lozano's complaint was verified. (A verification is a statement usually attached to the complaint and signed by the complainant attesting to the veracity of its contents.)

Lagman said: "If you read through the complaint, [you will see that] it is in an affidavit form. Thus, it is more than a verification. It is an expanded verification.

"Moreover, Lozano is a lawyer and we have opinion that if he signs as both lawyer and complainant, verification is no longer necessary, since that suffices the requirement of verification."

Rerun of Marcos case

Leaders of the Senate majority and minority blocs see nothing wrong in commenting on the impeachment proceedings in the House despite their mandate to serve as judges in the impeachment court if the complaint is transmitted to the chamber.

According to Senate Majority Leader Francis Pangilinan, impeachment is more a political rather than a judicial process, and "it is left to the discretion of the individual senator whether or not to comment on the merits of the case" against Ms Arroyo.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel said: "Maybe it's too late in the day to talk about [propriety] because in my case, I see the House proceedings as a rerun of the sham impeachment of [Ferdinand] Marcos in 1985, where [House committee on justice chair Rep. Simeon] Datumanong was a key Kilusang Bagong Lipunan leader."

"I have to denounce it as a complete tomfoolery at the expense of the people," he added.

In a statement he issued on Tuesday, Pimentel said he "fully sympathize[d] with the proimpeachment congressmen who walked out ... after seeing that the majority was bent on killing the impeachment case by preventing them from presenting evidence."

By Sen. Miriam Defensor-Santiago's reckoning, there will be no impeachment trial of Ms Arroyo.

"The threat that there are unnamed representatives who will sign up sounds very much to me like a ploy, like a psywar tactic," she told reporters. *With reports from Philip C. Tubeza, Norman Bordadora and Juliet Labog-Javellana*

Dozens hurt in clash outside Batasan

From page A1

ice candy when a burly policeman allegedly hit him in the back and arms. But Supt. Renato Valebia said it was "impossible" for a policeman to have hit the boy, adding that he could have been pushed by the crowd.

The group massed at the gates of the Batasang Pambansa complex, where they loudly proclaimed that the struggle for Ms Arroyo's ouster was leading back to the streets. Ms Arroyo is accused of vote-rigging and the other illegal acts.

The protesters said they had lost hope in constitutional means of removing Ms Arroyo, citing what they called the "brazen killing" of the impeachment process by administration lawmakers.

The day before pro-impeachment lawmakers walked out of the impeachment hearing after Maguindanao Rep. Simeon Datumanong, chair of the committee on justice, ruled out further debate on whether the amended impeachment complaint was "separate and distinct" from the two other complaints.

The violent clash occurred just minutes after in-house security arrested three Sanlakas members and an Akbayan member who had caused a commotion in the plenary hall, right after Rep. Edmund Reyes' speech.

Police had tried to bring the four militants to the Batasan Hills police station, but the unruly crowd mobbed the police van, forcing the policemen to let them go, Fortaleza said.

He identified the four as Rusty Delizo, Alex Caparas and Ronald Garcia, all of Sanlakas, and Obet Belandrez of Akbayan.

The four, which include a staff member of Akbayan Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel, were shoved and chased out of the gates of the Batasan by members of the Philippine Guardians Brotherhood.

Guardians, militants clash

Seeing this, banner-waving and placard-bearing members of Akbayan, Sanlakas and other militant groups stopped in the middle of a protest rally across the road, and attacked the thin crowd of the pro-Arroyo Guardians, but a team of policemen stepped in.

As tempers flared, the large group of protesters attacked the Guardians anew and pinned them against the gates. Scuffles broke out. This time, a larger contingent of anti-riot policemen and marshals intervened and pacified the two groups.

Valebia said the police made a mistake when they used the front gates, where the protesters were standing watch. He said they decided not to pursue them to keep the peace.

Police negotiated with the protesters to keep the gates open for incoming vehicles. A police line was put up between the sides of the gates, but the militants allegedly provoked the dispersal unit by poking them with their banners and streamers, Valebja said.

He estimated the crowd to have peaked at 150, but rally organizers counted at least 500.

Padlocked

After the violent clash, militant leaders padlocked the Batasang Pambansa gates and claimed they had thrown away the key.

They said the Batasang Pambansa had ceased to become a venue for democracy, following the walkout of proimpeachment lawmakers who accused the administration legislators of trying to kill the impeachment complaint.

The militants used two steel padlocks to close the main gates, but several minutes later, police managed to cut the locks, using a bolt-cutter they borrowed from the fire department.

Freedom from Debt Coalition president Ana Maria Nemenzo said the padlocking of the gates was their way of venting their frustration over the fact that "nothing was happening" in the impeachment deliberations.

Nemenzo warned that "anger is rising" among the people, and that truth would eventually come out, even if it arose from the streets.

Hopeless side of democracy

At noon, after the clash, activist priests Robert Reyes and Raul "Puti" Enriquez turned to prayers just outside the Batasan. They celebrated Mass for a fair hearing on the impeachment case.

Reyes and Enriquez, both of Gomburza, lamented that Marcos-type traditional politics had been resurrected in the House with administration lawmakers trying to derail the impeachment process.

"The hopeless seemed to be in a rush to kill the truth by ending the impeachment process through a vote. This is the hopeless side of democracy, when truth becomes a matter of parliamentary procedure," the priests said in a statement.

"This might happen today on the (77th) birthday of the late Jaime Cardinal Sin. Today on the birthday of a leader who persistently made a stand on the morality of political issues, the moral may just receive its deathblow from the political," they said. *With reports from Leila B. Salaverria, in Manila and By Jhunnex Napallacan, PDI Visayas Bureau*

Vidal saddened

IN CEBU, Archbishop Ricardo J. Cardinal Vidal was praying for the members of the House of Representatives to stop quarreling with each other.

"The congressmen are quarreling among themselves, accusing each other which does not project a very good image. We have to pray for their enlightenment," Msgr. Achilles Dakay quoted the cardinal as saying.

Vidal was disheartened by the tumult that broke out Tuesday when proimpeachment lawmakers, who claimed that the proceedings were being railroaded, walked out of the House justice committee hearing.

"He was saddened because the situation is bad enough and it can be worse," Dakay said.

Dakay said Vidal monitored the impeachment proceedings on television and saw the walkout and the flinging of documents into the air.

Vidal called on the legislators not to use their emotions in deciding the issue.

Dakay reiterated the stand of the Church to give President Macapagal-Arroyo due process by giving her a day in court.

The Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines is also calling on Filipinos to turn to God to find ways to change society for the better.

In an Aug. 28 pastoral letter, outgoing CBCP president Archbishop Fernando Capalla said the group had declared Sept. 12 a "Day of Conversion, Reparation and Consecration."

Is this the end for anti-GMA forces in House?

From page A1

quired 79 votes are met will have to be based on Lozano's complaint.

"It is the committee that decides which complaint is to be addressed, and it has decided," he said. "They can no longer revive [the amended complaint]. They cannot use the 79 votes for the plenary to decide on which complaint [to transmit to the Senate]."

But Taguig-Pateros Rep. Alan Peter Cayetano and even the vice chairs of the justice committee, Representatives Edcel Lagman and Marcelino Libanan, said the amended complaint could still be revived if the 79 votes were met.

"With the 79 votes, we can go to the Senate with the amended complaint. Any House action will just be a formality," Cayetano said.

Libanan said that with 79 votes, the proimpeachment camp could choose which complaint to transmit to the Senate: "Getting the 79 votes is like having a franchise to choose what complaint to recognize."

Lagman, however, said a ruling by the Supreme Court might be required: "That issue is still debatable, and some quarters might go to the Supreme Court to clear that up."

"In determining sufficiency in substance, we will look if the complaint contains sufficient allegations against the President," Lagman had earlier said.

The complaint, which contains as evidence only newspaper clippings and Lozano's letter to the President calling on her to resign, charges her with betrayal of public trust.

With the committee deciding that the complaint is insufficient in substance, it will send its report to the plenary, probably on Monday, Jaraula said.

"There will be debates at the plenary, and it is here that the proimpeachment camp needs the 79 votes to defeat the committee report and send the complaint to the Senate," he said.

But Jaraula said the pros would have to produce 79 signatures and not just have their allies vote at the plenary.

"If they just vote, it will go back to the committee. But if they sign, it will go to the Senate," he said.

And even if the President's critics in the House manage to get the 79 signatures today, the impeachment proceedings in the justice committee should be allowed to continue, Speaker Jose de Venecia said.

Denying accusations that Malacañang allies were railroading the process, De Venecia said the committee had ample time to complete its deliberations until next week.

Both chambers of Congress will be on recess on Sept. 10-18.

"What happens to the complaint is the business of the justice committee. Until it reaches the plenary, I have no role. My constitutional duty is ministerial," said De Venecia.

He expressed the belief that the committee should "wrap up" its proceedings by next week and make a report to the plenary.

"The [whole chamber] should deliberate on the report," De Venecia said, stressing that the proimpeachment lawmakers had the right to question, debate on and amend the contents of the report.

"They can even overturn the committee report if during the plenary session they [produce] the 79," he said. *With a report from Michael Lim Ubac*

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil

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Half of Metro jeeps can't raise fare — LTFRB

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOUR out of 10 jeeps plying the Metro route have no right to charge higher fares, according to the Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB).

LTFRB chair Maria Elena Bautista said that starting Sept. 15, deputized LTFRB agents would start running after public utility vehicles that failed to beat the final deadline on Tuesday to settle their dues and get their fare matrices.

The agency also said six out of 10 non-aircon Metro buses and more than nine out of 10 provincial non-aircon buses should not impose the fare hike.

Each time there is a fare hike, the LTFRB collects P520 in filing fee from PUVs, which includes one free fare matrix and P40 for franchise verification. An extra fare matrix costs P50.

Only the Metro air-con buses, all 1,527 of them, had paid these fees entitling them to the P1 fare increase, and have secured their fare matrices. Metro air-con bus fares are now pegged at P10 for the first five kilometers and P1.75 for every succeeding distance.

Two taxi groups, meanwhile, filed a joint petition for a P15-fare increase before the LTFRB the other day.

The Association of Taxi Operators and Drivers in Metro Manila and the Philippine National Taxi Operators Association sought a P15 add-on meter rate to cover the 31 percent increase in gasoline prices since September 2004 when the LTFRB approved the cab groups' petition for a P5-hike in flag down rates.

Vigor Mendoza, lawyer for the taxi groups, said the two petitioners asked the LTFRB not to require cabs to calibrate their meters and to allow taxi drivers to collect an additional P15 on the amount reflected in the meter.

The fare increase, according to the lawyer, would benefit only the drivers whose take home pay had dropped by P320 a day because of the P8 increase in gasoline prices.

Mendoza said a cab consumes 40 liters to operate 24 hours. A P15-fare hike, he said, would mean only a 15 percent increase in cab fares, since taxi passengers pay an average of P100.

In effect, the taxi fare hike was lower than the 26 percent increase in minimum jeepney fares of P2 at P7.50, plus a 25 percent hike for additional distance.

Bautista said she had formed a task force to monitor more than 23,500 jeeps and buses in Metro Manila that have not paid their dues and secured their fare matrices and yet, could be charging higher fares.

"Aug. 30 was the final deadline for all public utility vehicles allowed to increase their fares to pay for the increase in fare and for the fare matrix," Bautista said.

A two-week allowance had been given to those who beat the deadline, she added.

The LTFRB had already extended the deadline several times to give a chance to those who had failed to secure their fare matrices.

The agency urged commuters to report violations to telephone numbers 4262505 or 4262515.

Gate issue message via mail box

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE PARAÑAQUE City government has sent letters to more than 10,000 residents of BF Homes to explain the "real story" behind the BF gates controversy.

Mayor Florencio Bernabe said in his letter that residents and business operators in the subdivision alleged the United BF Homeowners Association Inc. (UBFHAI) collected excessive fees and charges from them.

The association reportedly charged non-residents P1,500 for gate stickers, and P800-P1,000 for residents. Residents also claimed they were charged P30-P300 for food or furniture deliveries, Nelson Lacambra, the mayor's spokesperson, told the INQUIRER yesterday. Security guards were also abusive and coercive, residents reported.

The mayor said the opening of the main gates was done to ensure "your families' and homes' safety and protection while shielding you from undeserved forms of harassment and coercion."

The Parañaque City Council passed City Ordinance Nos. 97-08 and 00-15 that reclassified both Aguirre and El Grande Avenues as commercial roads for public use, and Resolution No. 99-53 for the opening to the public of subdivision roads linked to major thoroughfares.

The UBFHAI closed Elizalde Avenue, which would also have been opened, in "apparent retaliation."

But UBFHAI president Celson Reyes said the association barred motorists from using Elizalde Avenue for security reasons. As for the fees they collected, he said the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board allowed them to do so as the money was used for maintenance purposes.

AFP

WITH rising oil prices, these children ride a trolley, a cheaper alternative to get to school for many in Manila.

'ISM bidders won't want shutdown'

By Jerome Aning

STUDENTS of International School Manila (ISM) and their parents need not fear that the school would close down even if the property is auctioned off on Sept. 5, a Department of Labor and Employment official said yesterday.

"Whoever wins the bid would surely want to keep operating ISM as a school if they want it to earn," DOLE-National Capital Region director Ricardo Martinez told reporters.

The Foreign Chambers of the Philippines earlier expressed apprehension that children of international businessmen and foreign diplomats studying at the school face displacement once the school is sold.

Martinez said three or four businessmen had expressed interest in buying the 7.5 hectare school at Fort Bonifacio, Makati City. He estimated that the value of the property could reach as much as P287 million. The DOLE decided to sell the school and freeze ISM's bank accounts after its management was unable to pay its former and current local-hire teachers some $4.3 million in back wages, as ordered by the Supreme Court. "The proceeds of the auction would be used to compensate the teachers. If it's not enough, we would look for other means to pay them," the director added.

The dispute involved demands for equal pay and claims for back pay and back benefits differentials between 1995 and 2000 by a group of 167 Filipino members of the ISM teachers' union. The teachers had asked the DOLE to award them an average of $42,500 each.

Raquel David Ching, ISM union president had earlier said that it would not have been hard for the school to pay the teachers the money since ISM earned an average of $18 million a year from the tuition of about 1,700 students who had paid between $10,000 to $14,000 per school year. "What matters is ISM respect the Supreme Court decision, and upholding the law," Ching added. *With Tarra V. Quismundo*

4 cops linked to Pasig holdup

By Edson C. Tandoc Jr.

FOUR policemen from the Eastern Police District are being linked to a bloody highway robbery in Pasig City last week.

Candy factory vice president Fernando Sy lost more than P400,000 to the robbers. He and his security guard Jason Abaog were also wounded when the robbers fired at them.

PO2 Joel Tapec, who was presented in Camp Crame yesterday, was identified by witnesses through a police gallery. He has denied the allegation. Three other policemen previously assigned to the Pasig City police were also invited by investigators to shed light on the case.

METROBRIEFS

Bike racks pushed

BIKE racks for cyclists. This suggestion came up when the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) met with bike groups yesterday, in a consultative dialogue about the agency's walk and pedal ways project dubbed Metro Padyakan. Under the project, the MMDA laid out a plan to establish an interconnected walk way and bike lane network throughout Metro Manila to encourage urban dwellers to walk or bike short distances, to and from their workplaces. To make this work though, bikers should be given a place where they could park their bikes, said Jack Yabut, president of Firefly Brigade, a non-government organization of bike enthusiasts. "If we want to make this work, we have to go the whole nine yards. Bikers need racks so they would have a place to leave and chain their bikes," said Yabut. Bike groups which attended yesterday's meeting suggested that the MMDA encourage government installations, such as the Metro Rail Transit and the Light Rail Transit, to create bike racks in their stations, and even allow bikers to take their bikes on board coaches. For employees who opt to pedal their way to work, offices, and factories, should also be convinced to install the racks, said Yabut. So should malls, groceries, and restaurants, he added. "This would give bikers added access and mobility. It would be a clear indication that the use of bikes is being promoted by government." Metro Manila has a few bike racks, including those in Marikina and the National Center for Transportation Studies building at the University of the Philippines-Diliman, said Yabut. The MMDA has begun work on its two-kilometer pilot bike lane in Xavierville Avenue, Quezon City which is scheduled to open on Sept. 17. *Tarra V. Quismundo*

Mandaluyong's new boss

APPLICANTS for business permits in Mandaluyong City will soon have a new BOSS. BOSS means Business One-Stop Shop, an acronym for the planned centralized office to enable a faster and more convenient processing of business permits in the city. Once it is operational, applicants will only have to show up in just one office to complete their paper work, instead of the existing process where they have to go from one office to another office located in different buildings. Under the plan, representatives from all departments involved in granting a business permit would be in just one place, the public information office said. The new one-stop office will be housed at the old executive building at the city hall compound. *Edson C. Tandoc, Jr.*

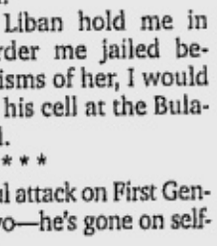
Water cutoff in Parañaque, Pasay

SOME areas of Parañaque and Pasay City will have no water for 20 hours starting 11 p.m. tomorrow until 7 p.m., Friday. The water service interruption is due to the installation of Full Bore Flow meters on the existing 600mm and 400mm ACP mainlines along F.B. Harrison corner Aguarra, and along Roxas Blvd. corner Russel, Pasay City. Areas with no water are: In Parañaque: Baltao, Sunvalley Drive, and Barangays Baclaran, Tramo, La Huerta, Dongalo, Sto. Niño, San Dionisio (from La Huerta boundary to Pelaez), and Vitales. In Pasay: Domestic Road, Andrew Ave. (from Tramo to Tambo Bridge), Electrical Road, Pildera I and II, Rivera Village and Airlane Village. Call Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or text Maynilad through SMART 7001626 for the water-rationing schedule.

Justice delayed for disabled man

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo



I WAS harsh in my criticism of Judge Ma. Belen R. Liban of the Regional Trial Court of Malolos, Bulacan, in my radio program last Monday.

I told off the judge in very graphic terms that she was gullible and wasn't using her head by glossing over the facts concerning a rape case and allowing it to drag on for the last two years.

I must admit that was no way to treat a lady, but it was my way to jolt her into realizing her shortcomings.

You see, Judge Liban has been trying a rape case filed against Ronaldo "Jeff" Quesada, 36, a quadriplegic, for more than two years now.

A quadriplegic is a person whose four limbs (hands and feet) are completely paralyzed. In short, practically a vegetable.

Quesada was charged with rape by his neighbor's housemaid.

She claims that Jeff was able to force himself on her by poking a gun at her.

My staff at "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo" television program visited Jeff at the Bulacan Provincial Jail in Malolos last year. They let Jeff hold a spoon. He couldn't hold the spoon for even two seconds.

Now, if Jeff couldn't hold a spoon how could he have poked a gun at his alleged victim?

Jeff can't go to the toilet unassisted. Two persons have to carry him deadweight (he weighs 140 lbs.) and place him on the seat. Then, his assistants have to clean him up when he's done.

Because the jail is overcrowded, Jeff has to wait long for other ambulatory inmates to use the toilet first. Most of the time, he is unable to hold nature's call.

Now, one doesn't have to be a rocket scientist to know that in Jeff's condition, it's impossible for him to commit rape.

Why is it that the good lady judge takes her own sweet time in reaching a decision on an impossible crime?

It's a big wonder why Bulacan Assistant Prosecutor Rita Gammad, who conducted a preliminary investigation, had to file the case in court.

Obviously, she's another case, given Jeff's condition.

Should Judge Liban hold me in contempt and order me jailed because of my criticisms of her, I would gladly join Jeff in his cell at the Bulacan Provincial Jail.

* * *

After a successful attack on First Gentleman Mike Arroyo—he's gone on self-exile to the US-former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon "Dinky" Soliman has now trained her sights on Mike Arroyo's crony, Efraim Genuino.

Genuino is chair of the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corp. (Pagcor).

Soliman said that when she was still with the team of President Macapagal-Arroyo, she told her boss to remove Genuino. Ms Arroyo reportedly replied: "I need him to survive. He takes care of the media and the bishops."

If Soliman is to be believed, then Genuino has done a lousy public relations job for the President, given the adverse publicity she's getting and the public dressing down she's receiving from the bishops.

The truth is Soliman hates Genuino and Pagcor because she allegedly couldn't get hold of the government gaming agency when she was still DSWD secretary.

She was reportedly not satisfied even after she was given the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes at her disposal.

Soliman reportedly wanted the Pagcor placed under the DSWD.

Pagcor under Genuino has earned more in four years than the previous chiefs in 14 years.

The guy has incurred the ire of many government officials because he deprived them of privileges they enjoyed in the previous administrations.

INQUIRER Platinum Gold

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER PLATINUM ANNIVERSARY 1985

Find the answer to the question in the highlighted letters above. Highlighted letters may be used more than once. Text in your answer to 29768* for SMART, Globe, and Sun Cellular subscribers and get a chance to win in the weekly or grand draws!

*To join, initially send PDI<space>20<space>answer<space>name/address/age/gender to 29768. Ex.: PDI 20 ANSWER Jonah Imperial/#1 Paco St., Makati/22/F. For succeeding answers, the registered subscriber simply sends PDI<space>20<space>answer to 29768. Each entry sent is P2.50. Each participant is allowed a maximum of 3 entries per day.

Prizes at stake:
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See print ads and flyers for complete details.

INQUIRER

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  - Sun Cellular will use the Peso equivalent of the US$0.20 IDD rate per minute following the NTC prescribed peso-dollar exchange rate issued at the beginning of the transaction month.

For POSTPAID subscribers only

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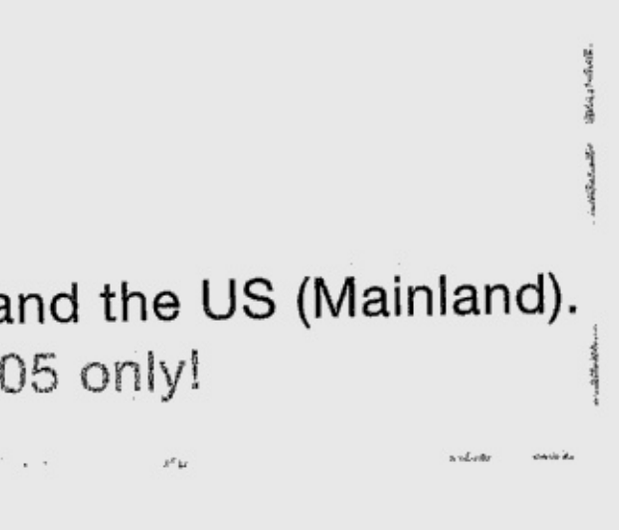
   b. **For prepaid:** The Mall->Mall Assistant->My Account->Prepaid->BUY IDD->Top5 100

*Note: For postpaid subscriber purchases via SMS or The Mall, **IDD Top 5** load will be charged separately from the Monthly Service Fee. Prepaid subscriber purchases will be automatically deducted from the regular load in your account.*

After your request has been processed via SMS or The Mall, you will receive a text message containing the number series *220# followed by a 14-digit number string and the # sign. Once you receive this number string, you may send it to a prepaid subscriber via SMS or by calling. The recipient should:

- Key in *220# followed by the 14-digit number string then the # sign (Ensure that there are no spaces between characters)
- Press **SEND**
- A text message will display the updated load balance.



Per DTI-NCR Permit no. 4895 Series of 2005.

SPORTS

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Ateneo gains basketball finals

DEFENDING champion Ateneo barged into the finals of the Milo BEST Small Basketeers Philippines/Passerelle tournament last Sunday by hurdling La Salle Greenhills and De La Zalle Zobel at the San Beda-Alabang courts. The Ateneans downed LSGH, 41-38, to gain the SBP finals against San Beda Manila.

Warriors seek semis against Archers today

STANDINGS	W	L
FEU	9	1
Ateneo	8	2
UE	8	3
La Salle	6	4
UP	5	6
Adamson	3	8
UST	3	8
NU	0	10

GAMES TODAY
(Blue Eagle Gym)
9:30 a.m.—UP vs Adamson (Jrs)
11:30 a.m.—UE vs La Salle (Jrs)
1:30 p.m.—UP vs Adamson (Srs)
4 p.m.—UE vs La Salle (Srs)

THE PUMAREN brothers have had contrasting fortunes this season in the UAAP basketball tournament.

But this time, it's Dindo's University of the East Warriors who have proved to be more lethal than Franz's La Salle Archers.

The plucky Warriors (8-3) try to live up to their new status when they gun for a slot in the Final Four against the defending champion Archers (6-4) at 4 p.m. today at the Blue Eagle Gym.

The Far Eastern U Tamaraws claimed the first semifinal slot last Sunday after repulsing the University of the Philippine Maroons, 71-63, for a commanding 9-1 record. The Ateneo Eagles are in second place at 8-2.

"It's going to be a crucial game for us," said Franz. "It's unfortunate that I'm going to play against my brother. A win will enhance our chances of making it to the top two, and it's the same thing for Dindo."

Earlier, the UP Maroons will try to revive their Final Four bid against the Adamson Falcons at 1:30 p.m.

The Warriors slipped to solo third after bowing to the Ateneo Eagles, 69-75, last Saturday. "We looked intimidated by Ateneo," noted Dindo.

But the Warriors vow to come out more aggressive against the Archers with rookie sensations Bonbon Custodio and Mark Borboran, 2004 Rookie of the Year Marcy Arellano and playmaker Earn Saguindel.

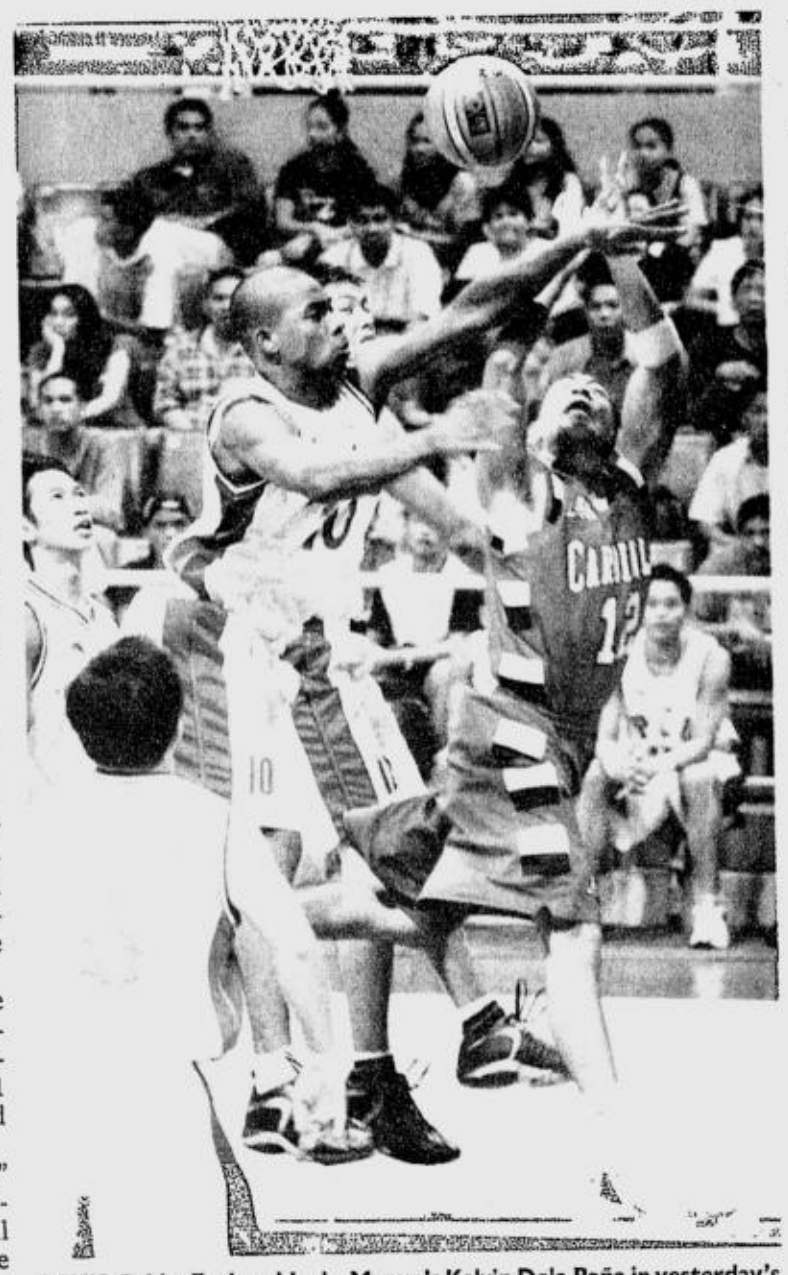
The Archers' offense will again be anchored on team captain Joseph Yeo, Jun Cabatu and JV Casio.

The multititled Archers strengthened their hold of fourth spot last Sunday after posting a 78-54 blowout win over the National University Bulldogs. Yeo and Casio combined for 29 points.

In their first encounter, the Warriors narrowly edged the Archers, 57-56, with Arellano nailing the game-clinching triple.

The Maroons, meanwhile, have been sinking further down the standings. And veterans Abby Santos and Nestor David have to get their act together to keep UP's semifinal bid on track.

Jasmine W. Payo



PCU'S Gabby Espinas blocks Mapua's Kelvin Dela Peña in yesterday's game at the Cuneta Astrodome. RYAN LIM

Fiba nixes PBF, sticks with BAP

By Musong Castillo

CRUSHED.

The international basketball federation (Fiba) on Tuesday junked the Philippine Olympic Committee's request for recognition of the Philippine Basketball Federation, branding it as "impossible" and calling the expulsion of the Basketball Association of the Philippines as "political."

A lengthy letter dated Aug. 30 from Fiba secgen Patrick Baumann berated the POC and its leadership even as the world governing body for basketball affirmed its recognition of the POC-expelled BAP while calling for unity of all basketball stakeholders in the country.

"As long as such unity is not demonstrated and guaranteed by all stakeholders (of basketball in the Philippines) to Fiba, Fiba will continue recognizing the BAP as its regularly affiliated member," wrote Baumann in a letter addressed to POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco and secretary general Steve Hontiveros.

"Fiba's opinion is that it is inappropriate to use basketball as a sport-political game between opposing sides," Baumann continued. "As a consequence, Fiba cannot accept the POC's decisions to remove one group in favor of another one."

Baumann also said that the POC should have given new BAP president Joey Lina enough time to effect the agreements of the cage body with the POC.

The BAP was first suspended by the POC for "reneging" in basic gentlemen's agreements reached during two cage summits in April. Thirty-three National Sports Associations then voted

FIBA/ A24

RP five nowhere to go

THE PHILIPPINE Basketball Association-backed national team may have to be disbanded because it has nowhere to go.

Lito Alvarez, the Air21 Express representative to the PBA board, who is also the Basketball Association of the Philippines' Deputy Secretary General, yesterday floated the idea of breaking up the team because of the continued ban on the country's international participation. "It appears that there's no more use for PBA's multi-million budget for the (RP team) program at this time," said Alvarez. " During next week's PBA Board meeting, I intend to seek clarification on the directions of the team being supported by PBA. I am even thinking of asking for the disbandment of the RP training pool, until such time that the Fiba suspension in the Philippines has been lifted."

Baculi-less Dolphins rip Cardinals

By Jasmine W. Payo

RALLYING behind their beleaguered coach, the Philippine Christian U Dolphins came out firing for a 66-57 triumph over the Mapua Cardinals that gave them the remaining twice-to-beat semifinal bonus in the NCAA basketball tournament yesterday at the Cuneta Astrodome.

Robert Sanz spearheaded the defending champions' scoring surge in the second half to finish with a game-high 22 points.

"Everything the players did was for coach Junel," said assistant coach Joel Dualan, who took over from head tactician Junel Baculi. "We played what we practiced (the day before). Coach Junel gave us simple instructions in running both our offensive and defensive game."

Baculi served a one-game suspension for flashing a dirty finger during the Dolphins' 75-81 loss to the San Sebastian Stags last Friday.

Playing without a coach is not a new thing for the Dolphins. Last year, the Dolphins claimed Game 1 of the Finals series despite the suspension of Ato Tolentino.

The Letran Knights had already claimed the first semifinal incentive last week, but still pounced on the Stags, 65-46, earlier in the first game.

The Knights (12-1) snuffed the Stags' bid for a twice-to-beat edge, jumping to an 11-2 start and sustaining their drive as they responded to coach Louie Alas' challenge to bounce back from their first season loss.

GAMES TOMORROW
(Cuneta Atrodome)
2 p.m.—Mapua vs SSC (Srs)
4 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Srs)
6 p.m.—PCU vs Letran (Jrs)

"I told the players that no champion team loses back-to-back," said Alas.

The Cardinals snapped the Knights' phenomenal 11-game winning run with a 71-66 shocker last Wednesday.

The third-running Cardinals (8-5) and the Stags (7-6) will settle the Final Four pairings in their game tomorrow. A Stags victory will forge a playoff for the third spot.

In junior play, the Staglets joined the San Beda Cubs on top (10-2) after blasting the Squires, 80-60. The Squires remained in contention for the twice-to-beat edge at 8-3.

The scores:

First Game (Srs)

LETRAN 65—Aldave 16, Aban 10, Alcaraz 10, Andaya 8, Rodriguez 7, Piñera 6, Mondragon 4, Bautista 3, Jazul 1, Quinday 0, Realista 0, Melegrito 0, Baineg 0, Faundo 0.

SSC 46—Delgado 11, Vicente 8, Najorda 8, De Leon 4, Viray 4, Tioseco 3, Aguilar 3, Juan 3, Quiamco 2, Ballesteros 0, Lindaya 0, Sagad 0, Aquino 0.

Quarters: 20-16, 38-22, 56-35, 65-46

Second Game (Srs)

PCU 66—Sanz 22, Belga 14, Retaga 12, Espinas 9, Castro 4, Amparado 3, Cecilia 2, Solis 0.

MAPUA 57—Gonzales 14, Del Rosario 9, Dela Peña 8, Tiongco 6, Co 5, Pascual 4, Migraso 4, Sumalinog 2, Malgapo 2, Mazo 2, Gorospe 1, Salud 0, Veranga 0.

Quarters: 17-16, 33-30, 53-43, 66-57

37 days to go before 23rd SEA Games

Chinese bets to play here

By Musong R. Castillo

WHILE it seems that almost every national athlete playing in the coming Southeast Asian Games would want to go abroad and train, members of the Philippine table tennis team will be applying a different approach.

Instead of flying out, the national ping pong players have requested their association to bring China's national players here to play in a series of tuneup matches to hone their skills for the Games set Nov. 27 to Dec. 5.

Veteran internationalists Ernesto Ebuen II and Cendrina Balatbat lead the men's and women's team as ping pong stakes a total of nine gold medals, counting the mixed and team events.

***

JUDO brought home a gold, a silver and three bronze medals to become the most decorated Southeast Asian nation in the Vietnam International championships.

World power Korea topped the 11-nation field with 11 gold medals. Helen Dawa, who won the only gold for the Philippines in Vietnam in the under-45 kg category, leads a 16-strong Philippine pool that will train in Japan. The team leaves on Sept. 8.

Panabo, Cotabato up in Mindanao Boxing

By Recah Trinidad

MAGPET, Cotabato—Panabo City of Davao del Norte fielded a balanced, well-honed team and yesterday threatened to dominate the 1st Mindanao Invitational Amateur Boxing Championship at the Magpet Gymnasium.

The team of Congressman Tonyboy Floirendo sent a total of eight boxers into the two-category semifinals—Youth and Batang Pinoy—and was being challenged by the hosts at the close of action yesterday.

The Cotabato Province team of Gov. Manny Pinol has a total of six semifinalists.

The tournament, which serves both as a celebration of youth and a talent search, continues to draw big crowds and had to be extended another day due to the big number of participants.

The original 18 teams swelled to 36 that fielded a total 183 boxers who had to compete in two separate rings.

"This is the start of something great, all the way from the grassroots," said Gov. Pinol, whose brother Magpet Mayor Efren Pinol is the tournament host.

Gov. Pinol said they will pick the first batch of boxers who will next be trained by Cuban coach Honorato Espinosa. These select fighters will be competing in national tournaments with the aim of making it to the Philippine team.

At ringside yesterday was Cuban Ambassador Jorge Rey Jimenez, the guest of honor who personally picked Espinosa to hone the skills of Filipino fighters upon the request of the League of Provinces of the Philippines.

Espinosa won for Cuba its first Olympic boxing gold medal in Munich in 1972 and went on to help win for his country a total of 27 Olympic and World gold medals.

Other teams in the tournament which opened on Aug. 27 come from Ozamis City, Bohol, Zamboanga Del Norte, Misamis Oriental, Maitum Sarangani, Davao City, University of Mindanao, Agusan Sur, Compostela Valley, Digos City, Davao Sur, Gen. Santos City.

Tipon escapes foe anew

BANTAMWEIGHT Joan Tipon scored his second straight victory by the slimmest of margins as he edged Athens Olympian Kim Won-gul of the People's Republic of Korea, 25-24, last night in the 23rd Asian Seniors Boxing Championships at the Pan Dinh Phung Stadium in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Tipon also needed to withstand the last ditch attack by Tajikistan's Umarov Mehrodh to post a hairline 12-11 victory in the opener last Sunday of this week-long slugfest featuring Asia's leading boxers.

"It was a very good, clean and exciting bout. I'm glad that Tipon was able to survive the Korean," said Amateur Boxing Association of the Philippines Manny T. Lopez, who is also the delegation head.

Flyweight Warlito Parrenas wasn't as lucky. Despite outpunching Nouman Kariman of Pakistan, Parrenas lost, 21-27, a decision met by loud boos from the crowd.

Parrenas joined joined featherweight Joegin Ladon in the sidelines. Ladon bowed to Athens Olympic silver medalist Kim Song-guk, 12-20, also last Sunday.

Filipino lightweight Genebert Basadre is already in the next round after mauling South Korea's Shin Jin-soo, 23-15.

Patricio Gaspi heads the coaching staff of the team which is supported by the First Gentleman Foundation, PSC and Accel.

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Bibat pulls away by 4 shots; Pagunsan misses cut

BAGUIO—Michael Bibat widened his lead to four strokes after another solid round of three-under-par 66 yesterday even as Juvic Pagunsan suffered the ignominy of missing the halfway cut of the Samsung Amateur Tour third leg he was expected to win at the Camp John Hay Golf Club here.

On another rainy day which forced organizers to use the preferred-lie rule, the 20-year-old Bibat birdied three of his first six holes and went on to shoot his second straight sub-par round for a 131 aggregate, seven under par over the rolling course.

That put Bibat four shots up on fellow national pool member Jay Bayron, who birdied five of the last seven holes for the day's low round of 64 and a 135 aggregate.

Running third was Marvin Dumandan who had a 68-137 while Korean Kim Chang-hoi (71) and Rufino Bayron (66) were joined by jungolfers Tonton Asistio (68) and Gino Bunyi (70) at 139.

Pagunsan, under pressure after a so-so start of 72, started strong with six birdies on the front nine to cushion a double-bogey and a bogey for 31.

But his game deteriorated coming home, stumbling with a triple bogey on the the 16th, a bogey on the 17th and a double bogey on the 18th for a 73 and a 145 total.

He needed just a par and two bogeys on the final stretch, which is not difficult since two are par-5s and considered birdie holes.

"It was one of those days, I believe. The weather might have caused it but he's not offering any excuses," said organizer Boy Blue Ocampo of the Professional Sports Management Group.

The event put up by Samsung for amateur golf development is also sponsored by Tokyo Tokyo, KZG, Microtel, Coppertone Sport, Srixon, Philippine Airlines as the official carrier, Sunbolt, Rudy Project, C-Lium Fiber and Sports Plus. Media partners are Wave 89.1, Jam 88.3, 89.9, 99.5 RT. 103.5 K-Lite and Killer Bee.

Jong Laput, Jun Bernis, Peter Elardo and Anthony Fernando, all at 141, made up the last group of qualifiers.

Kim, the national finals champion of the Samsung Tour last year, was assessed a two-stroke penalty for failing to follow the right procedure on dropping from an embedded lie on the 12th hole.

He and his father later got into a minor dispute with Bibat, whom they accused of changing balls, which the latter quickly denied.

Fiba nixes PBF. . .

• From page A23

to expel the BAP from the Olympic movement on June 30.

"The sequence of events rather demonstrates that the suspension was a maneuver to reach the expulsion of the BAP and the integration of the opposing personalities under the PBFI," Baumann said in the letter a copy of which was furnished the BAP.

"As a consequence of our position on the matter, it is impossible for Fiba to entertain your request for affiliation of the PBFI."

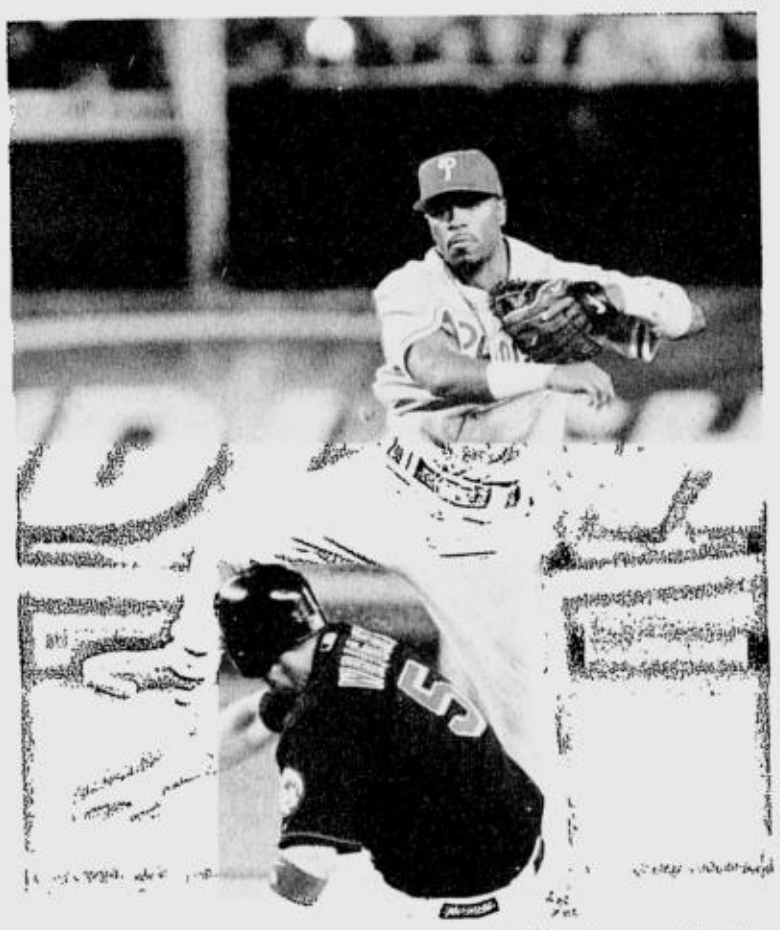
Meanwhile, in a Senate hearing yesterday where POC, BAP and PBFI leaders also got a mouthful from senators Pia Cayetano, Jinggoy Estrada and Lito Lapid, it was learned that the Philippine Southeast Asian Games Organizing Committee (Philsoc) would not be able to cash in on the pledges of support it has gotten from lawmakers.

It was during the hearing where Lina provided media copies of Baumann's letter to the POC.

The Department of Budget and Management, Cayetano bared, has denied her request for release of funds to the Philsoc coming from her Countrywide Development Fund or pork barrel.

"I promised to help and continue to help, but I think I hit a blank wall with the DBM disallowing allocation of our funds to sports," said Cayetano, who had requested the DBM to also release part of her late father Renato's CDF to the Philsoc.

Baumann even went on to cite a similar leadership crisis that the BAP had four years ago and urged the POC to work with the controversial cage body, the only solution, it seems, that is in the horizon at the moment.



DOUBLE PLAY: Philadelphia Phillies' Jimmy Rollins throws to first to complete a double play after forcing out New York Mets' David Wright (left) at Shea Stadium in the Flushing neighborhood of the Queens borough of New York City. The Mets won, 6-4. AFP

NBC selection cops 9th Prince Cup title

HAAD TAI CITY, Thailand—The National Basketball Conference (NBC)-Nature's Spring Selection swept the 9th Crown Prince Cup invitational title at the expense of Thailand's national team, 72-60, at the Jiranakorn indoor stadium here Tuesday.

Six-foot-seven Val Domingo powered the Filipinos to their fourth straight victory with 17 points and, in the process, claimed the tournament and finals MVP awards.

Domingo, who joined the recent PBA draft but got no takers, was first in blocks (2 per game) and second in scoring (15 per game), rebounding (9 per game) and steals (3.5 per game).

The Filipinos struggled at the start before the highly partisan crowd and got bogged down by spotty officiating, barely inching ahead, 18-17, after 10 minutes.

But the Filipinos, sponsored by Nature's Spring and supported by Hapee Toothpaste, Dewfoam, Skygo Motorcycles, Sirlitz, Sulpicio Lines, Mandaue City Mayor Teddy Ouano and Laguna Gov. Teresita "Ningning" Lazaro, waxed hot in the second canto and outgunned the Thais, 23-12, to pull away at the break, 41-29.

They never looked back after that.

"We made it," said coach Al Solis. "We couldn't ask for more from the boys. They did not lose their composure despite the partisan officiating."

NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla praised the boys for "a job well done. We in the NBC are proud of all of you."

NBC secretary general Tito Palma, who is also the delegation head, said the victory proved that the Filipinos remained to be reckoned with in the Southeast Asian region's basketball scene.

The NBC-Nature's Spring squad opened its campaign with a 90-78 triumph over Hong Kong. Then it beat Singapore, 81-66, and South Korea's collegiate champion, 82-77, to gain the finals.

The scores:

NBC 72—Domingo 17, Briones 12, Villamin 10, Larong 9, Kalaw 8, Huelar 5, Tundag 3, Latoreno 2, Daa 2, Mangubat 2, Almacin 2.

THAILAND 60—Tantuma 17, Rai 14, Kruatiwa 11, Chintanasatip 6, Piroon 4, Rittiphanya 2, Thonpul 2.

Quarters: 18-17, 41-29, 54-50, 72-60

Tagaytay rules Merdeka chess

POWERHOUSE Tagaytay City whipped Intchess Asia, 3.5-0.5, in the eighth and final round to capture the Merdeka Chess Team Championship title Monday in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Tagaytay finished with 25.5 points, 3.5 points clear of Paez Dental Clinic Philippines, the other all-Filipino team in the field, and Manila Bangka, which is bannered by Filipino Fide Masters Rico Salumbagat and Jesse Noel Sales.

Paez Dental Clinic routed China Malaysia Coop, 3.5-0.5, in the final round.

Grandmaster Joey Antonio, fresh from a second place finish in the Malaysian Open last week, defeated Howard Chiu on the top board to lead his team's rout of the Singaporean squad.

Also posting decisive results were GM Nelson Mariano and team skipper Willie Abalos on boards two and four. Mariano beat Gerald Chan while Abalos toppled Christer Aplin.

"We want to thank Mayor Bambol Tolentino (Tagaytay) and Mr. Go Teng Kok. for their support," said Antonio through an overseas call. "We would not have been here without their help."

"Once again we were able to show that we could excel in this game," said Abalos, also the country's delegation head.

The Filipino chess players were also supported by the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office.

SPORTSWATCH

Patriots grab UCAA solo lead

THE LA SALLE-DASMARINAS Patriots turned to Roger Nacpil in the endgame as they upended the National College of Business and Arts Wildcats, 69-64. This handed the Patriots their third straight win and the solo lead in the 4th Universities and Colleges Athletic Association men's basketball tournament at the Emilio Aguinaldo College gym. Nacpil's baskets came after the Wildcats managed to close in, 53-59. His triple with 4:16 left allowed the Patriots to keep their distance, 62-53, after which he added a free throw with 12 seconds to go. The Wildcats suffered their first loss in three games. Meanwhile, Ryan Agapito chipped in 19 points as Asian Colleges of Science and Technology beat the St. Francis Doves, 62-53.

La Salle Greenhills keep NCAA swim title

THE LA SALLE tankers composed of Brian Padua, Jan Formalejo, Juancho Abejo, Ino Mantaring, Ali Racelis, Chris Manalo, Raymond Ang, Albert Prieto, Kenneth Laput, Carlo Zialcita, Nicco Zialcita and Jason Eugenio reigned supreme anew in the 81st staging of the NCAA swimming championships held recently at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex. Under the guidance of head coach Gregory Colenares and assistant coach Sherwin de la Paz, the La Salle tankers combined forces to deliver a total of 26 medals to make it back-to-back in the annual championships. Padua established new NCAA records in the 400 meter freestyle, 50 meter freestyle and 200 meter freestyle while Abejo set the mark in the 400 meter individual medley.

Nestle supports Dragon Boat Race

SOME 900 rowers from both here and abroad converged at the island paradise of Boracay in Aklan for the 1st International Dragon Boat Race 2005 recently. Teams that competed included the Manila Dragons, Team San Beda, University of the Philippines, La Salle University, Philippine Navy Team, Philippine National Police and local contingencies from the island of Boracay. International competitors came from Hong Kong, Singapore and Australia. The three-day dragon boat competition, supported by Nestle Ice Crean and the Department of Tourism tested the groups' skills in various categories: 500-meter men's and women's, 250-meter men's and women's, 250-meter mixed and 500-meter mixed.

Lavandia keeps javelin crown

FILIPINA Erlinda Lavandia bagged the women's javelin gold medal last Monday in the 16th World Masters Athletics Championships in San Sebastian, Spain. Lavandia, 52, threw 36.88 meters to beat Denmark's Ak Jensen (33.73) and Spain's Irurita Pasaban (31.75) in the event she also won two years ago in Carolina, Puerto Rico. Elma Muros-Posadas, on the other hand, clocked 1:04.48 to settle for the silver in the women's 400-m hurdles event. British Geraldine Finegan won the gold in 1:04.21. Philippine Sports Commissioner Ambrosio de Luna served as the delegation head.

MY Games National Invitational set

ARNOLD "Ali" Atienza, chief of the Manila Sports Council, announced yesterday that the First Manila Youth Games (MY Games) National Invitational will be staged from Oct. 23-30 in various venues in the city. The MY Games National Invitational will showcase the best 17-under athletes from other local government units, They will strut their wares against Manila's finest athletes. Through the event, Atienza said, the Masco hopes to widen the scope of LGU involvement in providing new avenues for recruitment, identification and talent exposure in line with the city government's comprehensive youth and sports development agenda.

Showdown at Roligon begins Saturday

ROLIGON Mega Cockpit's blockbuster opener every stagfighting season, the "National Showdown 7-Stag Derby" is all set on Saturday. Fights will also be held on Sept. 5 and 7. Derby hosts Danny Ty and Romero Yu remind participants to submit their entries tomorrow, from 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call 851-2275, 833-1638 and 852-9812 or 0917-8277484. The 3-stag elimination round on Saturday starts at 2 p.m. Pit managers Renato Shio, Gerald Go and Abu Centeno will assist the hosts in squaring all center bets.

Boren clinches Lynx Cup Advance crown

BOREN

PRETTY Speedster Pia Boren ruled the 2005 TRS (Tuason Racing School)-Ford Lynx Cup Advance Series by sweeping the three races in the final leg held over the weekend at the Batangas Racing Circuit in Rosario, Batangas.

The series is sponsored by Ford Group Philippines, Smart-Addict Mobile, eStandard Insurance, Petron Ultron, Goodyear, Ambi Pur Car, Oakley, Loctite, Red Horse, TRS Auto Developments, Starbright Body Kits, Rota Wheels, H&R Springs, C! Magazine, Philippine Star, 89.9 Magic, Trapik.com, Brothers Burger and Manila Speedzone.

Boren started the first race in fourth place behind polesitter and pre-race favorite John Marcelo, who led the series by eight points coming into the final leg. In second and third were former formula car champion Ivan Carapiet and 2003 TRS Ford Lynx Cup Novice first runner-up Eggay Quesada.

Marcelo was able to roll off the starting line decently while Carapiet bogged down. Quesada and Boren made relatively slow starts but were able to move past Carapiet and caught up with Marcelo before the first corner.

Boren was able to turn in ahead of Marcelo and grabbed the lead, which she kept until the finish. Quesada and Marcelo, meanwhile, went off track but were able to continue. At the end of the race, Marcelo came home second followed by Carapiet and Quesada.

In Race Two, Boren started from pole but was swamped by Quesada and Carapiet at the first corner. Marcelo, meanwhile, had trouble getting off the line and was forced to settle for fourth. A battle erupted between the two leading drivers as Boren waited patiently behind them.

On Lap Three, Boren saw an opening and overtook Carapiet for second. Two laps later, she used her cunning to line up Quesada, who took a tight line, and passed him on the exit of Turn One. Behind them, there was lots of action between Marcelo and Carapiet, who swapped places until Carapiet wrested third place away from Marcelo near the end of the race. At the checkered flag, it was Boren, Quesada, Carapiet and Marcelo.

Race Three served as a confirmation of Boren's dominance when she shot off into the lead and never looked back. That left much of the excitement and outcome of the series to Marcelo, Quesada and Carapiet, who thrilled the crowd with their close quarter racing.

KOREAN CAGERS: Members of the crack South Korean squad, (from left) Kim Jong Wan, Kim Jung Soo, Lee Ji Won and Kim Kwan Wook, upon arrival at the Naia yesterday. They will defend the Adidas Asian Streetball Finals beginning Sept. 3 at the Araneta Coliseum against teams from China, Chinese-Taipei, Hong Kong and the Philippines. RUDY SANTOS

Makati Coliseum now serves as NCA's home

IT'S official: the spacious and fully air-conditioned Makati Coliseum will be the new home of National Cockers Association (NCA), the biggest and most prestigious group of cockers.

NCA president Gov. Ito Ynares and promoters Rudy Salud, Lito Orillaza and William Co of WTJ Amusement Corp., the private group that handles Makati Coliseum, agreed yesterday to hold seven NCA stagfests, beginning on Sept. 6 and 8.

Virtually the who's who in Philippine cockfighting comprise the NCA, and among them are former ambassador Danding Cojuangco, Rudy Albano, Jet Fernando, *sabong* idol Patrick Antonio, Reps. Ronnie Puno, Gerry "Boy" Espina and Iggy Arroyo, Boy Jiao, NCA secretary general Jun Santiago, Representatives Butch Pichay, Jing Paras and Nonoy Libanan; Vice Mayor Nestor Mercado, Georgie Antonio, Biboy Enriquez, Richard Bates, Vice Gov. Boyet Joson, Ellan Nagano, Frank Berin, Alex Escalona, Ruel Ricafort, JV Magsaysay, Edgar Santos, Jun and Rudy Jingco, Tony Marfori, Benjie Lim, Beng Calivozo, Ram Lopez. Ampil Brothers and Rey Briones.

Salud, a former commissioner of the PBA, was the first president of the NCA when it was formed 20 years ago.

Eslao guns for 6th straight kart win

ROOKIE sensation Paolo Eslao guns for his sixth straight win in the KT Light division this Sunday in the 2005 WG&A Shell Superkarting Series at the Kart Zone in Cebu City.

Eslao, a 17-year-old Dutch-educated DLSU freshman, was undefeated in the previous legs at the Carmona Circuit Philippines, Boomland, Batangas Racing Circuit, the Asian Zone Karting and at Enchanted Kingdom to pace the standings with 340 points.

With another sweep of the Cebu leg, he will virtually have both the KT Light crown and the Top Rookie plum in the bag.

"Racing has become my passion and source of inspiration," said Eslao. "Winning this leg will be the culmination of the year-old struggle and hardwork to fulfill the longtime dream of becoming a karting champ."

Eslao took racing seriously at age 14 in 2002 in the Netherlands, where he beat his Dutch, German, British, American and Sudanese counterparts most of the time.

He returned to the country last year and decided to take his racing career to a more competitive level by taking Automotive Engineering at De La Salle and joining the Shell Karting Series this year.

Eslao is 175 points ahead of actor-racer Onemig Bondoc who has 65 points.

After this season, Eslao will move up to the expert level. By 2007, he plans to return to Europe to start turning his dream of becoming an F1 champ to reality.

PAOLO Eslao (left) takes the checkered flag in the KT Light class of the 2005 Shell Superkarting Series. He won the past five legs.

WORD FROM SINGAPORE

SEA Games hosting faces logistical nightmare

COME November, those heading for the Southeast Asian Games in Manila may find themselves in a nightmare instead of a thriller.

With Games venues spread over four main locations—Manila, Subic and southern cities Bacolod and Cebu, a 50-minute flight from Manila—a logistical and organizational nightmare has ensued.

The organizers are also racing against time to get the Philippine capital ready for the biennial affair, which they last hosted in 1991.

Singapore's chef de mission Oon Jin Teik told The Straits Times yesterday: "It's a very big challenge, especially for our support staff and media. It's like having it in four different countries."

However, he added that the organizers are trying to circumvent these problems.

For example, instead of having a centralized Games Village, athletes will stay in hotels near their competition venues. And to facilitate movement, organizers will provide a motorcade for athletes heading to these venues.

That would come in handy especially in Metro Manila, where a 20-minute trip could turn into a two-hour journey because of traffic jams.

Philippine Olympic Committee (POC) secretary general Steve Hontiveros admitted that they faced a tough challenge from the outset.

He said: "We inherited someone else's proposal—the idea to have it in four main locations."

"This is not the best year for us to host the Games, as the POC changed leadership in January and it's also election year for our country," he added.

Finance is another hurdle.

President Macapagal-Arroyo reportedly said earlier this month that her government would not go beyond the P300 million it has pledged for the Games.

A check with the organizers yesterday revealed that they are still about P200 million short of the estimated P1.2-billion budget.

With the Games program boasting a record 441 events in 41 sports, the lack of money could be a major problem.

However, the organizing committee's chief spokesman, Clarito Samson, told The Straits Times yesterday: "We are confident of reaching the target before the Games.

"Our chair, Jose Cojuangco, raised P20 million in just two days by approaching some legislators."

He also revealed that two major venues—Manila's Rizal Memorial Sports Complex Stadium (athletics) and the Bacolod City Sports Complex Stadium (men's football)—are being upgraded. A Singapore contractor is giving the former a $400,000 facelift, while facilities at the latter are being boosted to the tune of P20 million.

Both are expected to be ready by October.

Security is another big worry.

Yesterday, Philippine authorities placed their capital's security forces on full alert as National Security Adviser Norberto Gonzales warned of a major attack in Manila before the end of the month.

This came just a day after a bomb exploded on a ferry, injuring over 30 people in the southern port city of Zamboanga.

Responding to these security threats, Samson said: "They are entirely politically related and are not Games-related.

Besides, we have arranged for a ratio of three security personnel to one athlete at the Games."

He added that General Rodolfo Tor, who has handled key global events like an Apec in Subic several years ago, has been appointed as head of security.

Asked about the perceived security threat and whether Singapore would pull out if the situation worsens, Oon said: "I'll leave it up to the professionals and relevant authorities to advise us. For now, our main concern is the sporting aspect. *The Straits Times/Asia News Network*

Top rookie bet behind Mapua semifinal surge

By Jasmine W. Payo

DELA PEÑA: Can play mind games. RYAN LIM

GROWING up in Canada, Kelvin dela Peña felt there was no way he'd make it big in basketball.

"I love playing basketball, but in Canada, basketball is not really taken seriously. It's more of hockey," said Dela Peña, the Mapua Cardinals guard and the top Rookie of the Year candidate in the NCAA basketball tournament this season.

"Here, basketball is more intense and the spotlight is on you whether you play good or bad," the 6-foot-1 cager added.

Dela Peña clearly provided the Cardinals the much needed firepower to reach the semifinals this year.

"I know how to play mind games and I know how to use it to my advantage," said Dela Peña, who averaged 10.4 points and ranked second in assists at 3.3 apg and second in steals at 2.3 spg at the end of the first round.

"Between two competitive guys on the floor, the one who knows how to hold it together comes out on top," he said.

However, the confidence that Dela Peña exudes on the court doesn't suit well with everyone.

"If they think I'm cocky or if I'm conceited then that is their judgment," said Dela Peña. "What I'm just trying to do is to win for my team."

Dela Peña is the son of former professional player Ricardo dela Peña, who suited up for San Miguel and Sunkist.

"The one advice that my father told me about basketball that I always remember is letting the game come to you, never hurrying to get there," said the 21-year-old psychology student.

Back in Canada, Dela Peña suited up for the Mt. Royal College in Calgary, Alberta and was named to the All-Canadian team.

Dela Peña first had to deal with rejection from other schools before earning a spot in the Cardinals' roster.

"I guess they just didn't want me," Dela Peña said candidly.

But Mapua coach Horacio Lim saw a prize catch and Dela Peña quickly showed that he indeed deserves to play in the local collegiate hoops.

Roddick tumbles out

US Open debutant scores huge shocker

NEW YORK—The worst birthday of Andy Roddick's life ended with three straight tiebreak losses and a shocking first-round exit from the US Open against a player making his debut in the tournament on Tuesday.

Roddick, the champion two years ago and the No. 4 seed this year, fell, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (8), 7-6 (1), on his 23rd birthday to Gilles Muller, the first man from Luxembourg to compete in the Open.

The 22-year-old Muller, ranked No. 68, outhustled, outmaneuvered and, most astonishingly, out-aced Roddick, 24-17, to claim his second huge upset of the summer. In his first Wimbledon, he beat French Open champion Rafael Nadal.

Asked how he managed to dismantle Roddick, Muller replied sheepishly, "I have no idea."

"For me, it was just unbelievable to come out here today," Muller said. "I told myself to enjoy it and I did every minute."

Roddick hated every minute of it after blowing a 5-2 lead in the first set and a chance to serve out that set at 5-3. From then on, Roddick was frustrated by the left-handed Muller's canny mix of angled groundstrokes and serves, his blend of speeds, and his amazing ability to hit line after line.

Roddick flung his racket to the ground, dropped it another time in disgust, and kept chomping on a towel during changeovers. More than a few times he stared at the lines where Muller's shots landed, as if not believing his eyes, or watched the replays on the giant screen atop the stadium.

"I don't really remember a loss where I've felt this bad afterwards," Roddick said. "I love playing here. I probably had the best practice week I've ever had in leadup. It just didn't translate tonight. I'm in a little bit of shock right now, to be honest. I'd give anything to go back four hours right now."

Muller didn't serve as fast as Roddick but that didn't matter. Roddick couldn't figure out how to break him in the tiebreaks and in the last two sets. Rather than asserting himself, Roddick looked flat as Muller dictated the match and forced the action, running up 65 winners to Roddick's 39, though making 33 unforced errors to 15 by Roddick.

"I took some risks and maybe sometimes I was also lucky," Muller said.

Luck wasn't needed for No. 1 Roger Federer, who won his first-round match against Czech newcomer Ivo Minar, 6-1, 6-1, 6-1, in 1 hour, 1 minute earlier in the day.

It was a sweltering afternoon at the Open as Britain's leading players exited. No. 12 Tim Henman of Britain lost, 6-4, 6-2, 6-2, in the first round to Spain's Fernando Verdasco, and No. 28 Greg Rusedski fell to James Blake of the United States, 7-5, 7-6 (3), 6-3.

Women's No. 2 Lindsay Davenport won, 6-4, 6-4, over Na Li of China in the breezy evening, after French Open champ Justine Henin-Hardenne advanced with a 6-3, 6-0 romp over Zuzana Ondraskova of the Czech Republic. Third-seeded Amelie Mauresmo made easy work of Italy's Roberta Vinci, 6-3, 6-2.

There were touches of drama in three-time French Open champ Gustavo Kuerten's 6-2, 6-7 (5), 6-3, 7-6 (3) victory over American Paul Goldstein.

Kuerten advanced to the second round for the first time since 2002.

After playing more than three sets only once this year—and forced to retire from his last outing in Poland earlier this month—Kuerten prevailed in a match that lasted three hours and one minute. *AP*

GILLES Muller has every reason to shout for joy. The Luxembourg native has so far scored the US Open's biggest upset. AFP

BOWLING 'EM OVER

Philippine Daily Inquirer Tenpin Bowling Tournament Class A Champion Editorial Yellow ham it up with the paper's big bosses after receiving their trophies. Standing from left are Toto Lati (bankman), PDI president Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, Alex Prieto, Lui Villarico (editorial assistant), PDI chair Marixi Prieto, Allan Mortel (copyboy) and Corrie Narisma (assistant business editor). Sitting from left are Jun Engracia (news editor), Ernie Sambo (graphic artist), Kat Reyes (editorial assistant), Santi Alcantara (editorial assistant), Marlone Rubio (graphic artist) and Abel Ulanday (associate editor).

Pacquiao asked to throw ceremonial pitch in MLB

POLITICAL heavyweights. Hollywood superstars. Sporting legends. And now, the country's very own Manny Pacquiao.

The Filipino boxing hero joins an elite list of world-recognized personalities to open up a baseball game after being invited to throw the ceremonial first pitch in a Major League game in Anaheim, California.

According to reports, the former two-time world champion now training in Los Angeles for an important fight, will fire the first pitch right before the crucial game between the Los Angeles Angels and the Oakland A's tomorrow.

Among the famous celebrities who had been asked to throw the ceremonial pitch in baseball are US President George W. Bush, superstar Michael Jordan and middleweight great Bernard Hopkins.

Pacquiao will be following in the footstep of Latina beauty and "Desperate Housewives" star Eva Longoria, who threw the ceremonial pitch for the LA Angels last July in a game against the New York Yankees.

Pacquiao is currently training for his Sept. 10 bout against Mexican Hector Velazquez at the Staples Center in Los Angeles. *Salven L. Lagumbay*

Happy ending

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

I AM glad that Buddy Encarnado is now glad.

He is glad because, in all probability, he may yet bag Alex Cabagnot.

"All's well that ends well," Buddy said. "I've talked to the parents of Alex and they said it was all a matter of miscommunication."

The Cabagnots told Buddy that Alex left for Los Angeles in protest over what Alex claimed was Charlie Dy's mishandling of the negotiations with Sta. Lucia regarding Alex's playing contract with Sta. Lucia.

Before the conversation by overseas phone took place on Monday night between Buddy and Alex's parents, Buddy was fuming over the sudden disappearance of Cabagnot, Sta. Lucia's No. 2 draft pick this year.

Who wouldn't be?

On Aug. 20, Buddy signed the three-year deal for Cabagnot's stint at Sta. Lucia ending 2008. The following day, Aug. 21, Charlie Dy, Cabagnot's agent, signed it, too.

The ink had hardly dried up when Buddy got the news that Cabagnot had flown to Los Angeles, leaving poor Buddy in the dark

"Mr. Charlie Dy told me Alex opted to pursue his studies instead of honoring the deal for him to play for Sta. Lucia," said Buddy. "That really shocked me as it was way out of line. If he had planned to study, why did he have to go through the draft? Something's wrong somewhere."

According to Buddy, the parents of Cabagnot, particularly Alex's father, said they had dropped Dy as Cabagnot's agent.

"Mr. Cabagnot told me he would fly over and represent Alex himself when we negotiate a new contract," Buddy said.

OK, remember what I said about Cabagnot being the first "shamtee" in the PBA? I'll take that back only when Cabagnot resurfaces and explains why he flew the coop?

That still stands.

I'll take that back as soon as he or his father shows up and re-starts negotiations with Buddy.

Meanwhile, I invite Charlie Dy to air his side if he wants to. There's a space waiting for him here.

***

Are they now throwing dirt at each other?

It appears so.

If I were Moying Martelino, I'd keep my gun holstered instead of returning enemy fire from Joey Lina.

If you ask me, Moying is ahead in this battle for public sentiment. One having the upper hand shouldn't dignify any shot whatsoever or that might only drag one down to the pits.

Amid an overwhelming advantage, the wise thing to do is ignore the sling shots. They are but harmless jabs of a pug that's over-the-hill.

***

I have chaired, again, the Board of Judges for fiction in Filipino of the 2005 Palanca Literary Awards. Tonight, the winners will be feted at the Manila Pen, with UP President Dr. Emerlinda Roman no less as the guest of honor. I promised Nemie Bermejo, a Palanca fixture since the '70s, I'll be there.

"As chair, I command you to be there and read the names of the winners during the Awards Night," Nemie said.

Like my fellow judges Vim Nadera of UP-Diliman and Marco Lopez of Ateneo de Manila, who the winners are I also still don't know.

Entries are identified through numbers and the names of the writers are in a sealed envelope kept under the care of Palanca officials. In my time, pen names, not numbers, concealed the identities of the authors.

Different times, different chimes.

Anyway to all the winners, cheers! May your victory spur you to continue to produce more works of art.

***

FASTBREAK. Pisfa president Rico V. Brizuela will spearhead the holding of the Pisfa Anniversary Open Golf tournament on Sept. 5 at Sta. Elena. Composed of 122 members, the Pisfa is a major ally in the nation's vigorous campaign for economic growth, mainly in the area of international sea-freight forwarding business. Rico, an amiable fellow well-loved by his peers, has been a friend for years. Good luck, buddy.

***

E-mail: menju@pldtdsl.net

SHOW TIME

Bublé at Araneta

MICHAEL Bublé

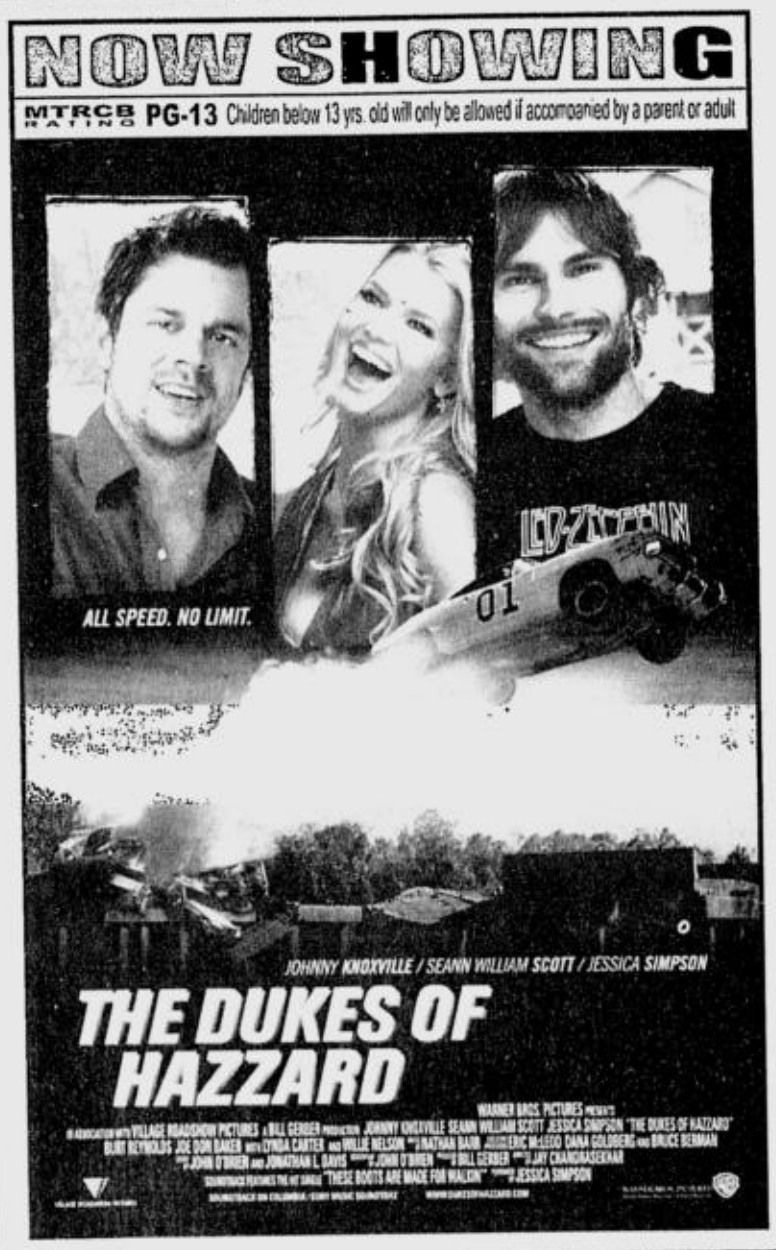
CANADIAN crooner Michael Bublé is set to perform at the Araneta Coliseum on Oct. 12.

Discovered by Grammy-wining producer David Foster, Bublé grew up in Burnaby, Vancouver, and was once a wedding singer. As a teenager, he was introduced to the pop, swing and jazz standards of the 1930s and 1940s by his grandfather. This same grandfather, who was a plumber, offered his services for free to musicians who would let Michael sing with them on stage.

Now Michael is an internationally acclaimed performer and recording artist.

Before his Manila engagement next month, Buble will go on a US-Australia tour. His latest CD, "It's Time," has sold 2.5 million copies worldwide since its release in February.

Tickets are at P5,000, P2,500, P1,500 and P800. Call 911-5555.



MMTA
METRO MANILA THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
8th floor Shangri-la Plaza EDSA corner Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City
Telephone: 633-2227 / 8337851 loc:171

1 (DOLBY) CLOSED FOR SPECIAL EVENT
2 (DOLBY) THE CAVE
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH GP
4 (DOLBY) THE DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13

PREMIERE
(DOLBY) THE LONGEST YARD PG13

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72

1 (DOLBY) THE GREAT RAID
2 (SDDS) ARE WE THRE YET
3 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS
4 (GOLD DTS) DUKE OF HAZZARD
5 (GOLD DOLBY) CAVE
6 (GOLD SDDS) LONGEST YARD
7 (GOLD DOLBY) SKY HIGH
8 (DOLBY) VALIANT
9 (DOLBY) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
10 (DOLBY) SKELETON KEY

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72

1 (DOLBY) LONGEST YARD
2 (DOLBY) DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DOLBY) CAVE

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216

1 DUKE OF HAZZARD
2 CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

Blue Wave
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927

1 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
2 (DOLBY) DUKE OF HAZZARD
3 (DOLBY) CAVE
4 (DOLBY)

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228

1 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
2 CAVE
3 RESERVED
4 PASAWAY
5 DUKE OF HAZZARD

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 PUSANG GALA
2 (DTS) TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 (DOLBY) SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 SKY HIGH

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall (Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146
1 PUSANG GALA
2 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
3 (DTS) SHAOLIN VS' STONE WARRIOR
4 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix (Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 WEDDING CRASHER
2 PUSANG GALA
3 (DOLBY) THE EYE INFINITY

Cinema 2000 Metrotown (Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 ARAHAN
2 BEWITCHED
3 (DOLBY) WEDDING CRASHER
4 (DTS) PUSANG GALA

Cinema 2000 Waltermart (Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 ARAHAN
2 MUST LOVE DOG
3 (DOLBY) BEWITCHED

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150

1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 KAULAYAW
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL EX) SKY HIGH
5 CAVE

METROPOLIS star
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433994

1 LAMAT
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED
5 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
6 CAVE

starmall Movies
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(LAS PINAS) tel. 8735004

1 (DOLBY)
2

MARKETHALL
Mandaluyong tel 533.3851 / 533.3856

1
2
3 ALIPIN NG ALIW
4 RESERVED

Masagana CINEMA 999
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274

1 SKY HIGH
2 LONGEST YARD
3 CAVE

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)

1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY ED) SKY HIGH
2 MUST LOVE DOGS
3 (DTS EX) THE EVIL EYE
4 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD

Cine Nepo
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.0121

1 THE EVIL EYE
2 SHAOLIN VS' EVIL DEAD
3 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
4 (DTS) MUST LOVE DOGS

Cine Nepo
(Dagupan City) tel (075) 515.8489

1 PUSANG GALA
2 ARAHAN
3 (DOLBY) EYE INFINITY
4 (DTS) WEDDING CRASHERS

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007

1 CHARLIE AND THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
2 PUSANG GALA

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS) ARAHAN
2 ITLOG
3 HINOG SA PILIT
4 (DTS) PASAWAY

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY) SKY HIGH
2 PUSANG GALA
3 (DTS) THE GREAT RAID
4 PASAWAY
5 THE EVIL EYE

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ARAHAN
2 BEWITCHED
3 KALAPATI SA GABI
4 MUST LOVE DOGS

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029

1 CAVE
2

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Araneta Center Leisure Guide

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A3-696 SERIES OF 2005

CINEMA SCHEDULES

Gateway CINEPLEX 10
LEVEL 4, GATEWAY MALL
ONLY P99 ADMISSION
P120 RESERVED SEATS
DOLBY DIGITAL-EX

FOR INQUIRIES, PLEASE CALL TICKETNET AT 911-5555

THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 2:20 / 4:45 / 7:10 / 9:35
SKY HIGH 12:20 / 2:30 / 4:40 / 6:50 / 9:00
THE CAVE 1:35 / 4:10 / 6:45 / 9:20
LONGEST YARD 1:30 / 4:00 / 6:30 / 9:00
THE TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

GLOBE PLATINUM CINEMA
ADMISSION P299 / Globe Platinum Subscribers P249
THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 1:45 / 4:10 / 6:35 / 9:00
SKELETON KEY 1:00 / 3:10 / 5:20 / 7:30 / 9:40
THE GREAT RAID 1:00 / 3:40 / 6:20 / 9:00
MUST LOVE DOGS 12:40 / 2:50 / 5:00 / 7:10 / 9:20

ALI MALL CINEMAS
1 SKY HIGH 11:20 / 1:30 / 3:40 / 5:50 / 8:00
2 THE CAVE 12:50 / 3:25 / 6:00 / 8:35
3 THE LONGEST YARD 12:30 / 3:00 / 5:30 / 8:00
4 D' ANOTHERS 12:30 / 2:30 / 4:30 / 6:30 / 8:30
5 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD 12:50 / 3:15 / 5:40 / 8:05
DOLBY DIGITAL SDDS

ARANETA COLISEUM EVENTS
SYMPHONY OF THE HEART- GARY V — September 2, Friday 8pm
ADIDAS ASIAN STREETBALL FINALS 2005 — Sep.3, Sat. 10am - 5pm & Sep.4, Sun 9am - 5pm
NCAA CHEERING COMPETITION — September 7, Wednesday 2pm
THE CASCADES ENCORE — September 9, Friday 8pm

CENTER EVENTS
SALE EVENT — All Mall Anniversaya Sale ongoing until September 29. Up to 50% off mallwide. Open till 10pm on Fridays & Saturdays
EXHIBIT — Rustan's Beauty Destination Exhibit featuring The Chanel Makeup Workshop today at the Upper Ground Floor Activity Area of Gateway Mall
NEW STORES — Duck Duck now open at the Ground Floor of Gateway Mall, KFC now open at the Third Floor of Farmers Plaza

LOG ON TO www.aranetacenter.net FOR MORE DETAILS OR TO SUBSCRIBE TO OUR WEEKLY E-MAIL ENTERTAINMENT UPDATES

Today

Nina at Atchie's Bar
Anna Fegi at Merk's
Rhythm Authority at Suburbia

Tomorrow

Gary V's "Symphony of the Heart" concert at the Araneta Coliseum with the San Miguel Philharmonic Orchestra, Erik Santos, Sheryn Regis, Paolo and Gabriel Valenciano and the Powerplay Band; 8 p.m.

Mishka Adams at Tower Records, Glorietta 4, Makati; 6 p.m.

Hale at Metropolis Star Alabang; 6 p.m.

Side A at Robinsons Place Manila

"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater

MISHKA Adams

DJ Elian Habayeb and DJ Mark Calijentes feature house music at M Café located at the groundfloor of the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m. Call 757-3000.

Ntwine and Twisted Pair at Suburbia

September 3

"Late Nite with BMW" with stand-up comics Tim Tayag and Allan Manalo at the BMW Autohaus Showroom in Libis, Quezon City

"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater

September 4

Viva Hot Babes and Viva Hot Men at Starmall Edsa; 4 p.m.

Side A at Robinsons Sta. Rosa

September 7

GARY V

Nina Uncovered Bar Tour at Suburbia

September 9

Mojo Fly at Tower Records, Alabang Town Center

Bryony Lavery's "Frozen" featuring Jamie Wilson, Roselyn Perez and Jenny Jamora at the Republic of Malate; 8 p.m.

"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater

DOUGLAS Nierras' Powerdance celebrates its 18th anniversary at the AFP Theater, 7 p.m.

DJ Elian Habayeb and DJ Mark Calijentes feature house music at M Café located at the groundfloor of the Ayala Museum, Greenbelt 4; 10 p.m. Call 757-3000.

September 10

Bryony Lavery's "Frozen" featuring Jamie Wilson, Roselyn Perez and Jenny Jamora at the Republic of Malate; 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.

"Footloose the Musical" at the Meralco Theater

Side A at Robinsons Metroeast

DOUGLAS Nierras' Powerdance celebrates its 18th anniversary at the AFP Theater, 3 and 7 p.m.

September 11

Grandparents' Day Celebration featuring "Swinging Seniors Ballroom Dancing Competition" at Starmall Edsa, Metropolis Star Alabang and Starmall Las Piñas

September 15

Mojo Fly at Music One

Faith Cuneta in "One: The World Tour" concert at the Music Museum

JAMIE Wilson

BUBBLY START

Soapdish, who performed the current radio and MTV hit "Ewan Ko," recently launched their self-titled debut album under V3 Records. The group, definitely one of several new bands to watch, consists of vocalist/guitarist Jef Bolivar, bassist Cesar Bendoy, lead guitarist Terrence Teves and drummer Kurt Floresca.

SPIN CITY

Gentle jurors on 'Rock Star'

TAKING their cue from bitchy **Simon Cowell** on "American Idol," local talent search jurors have also been bitching it up with their comments, in the hope that the ensuing nasty sizzle will elicit avid viewership for their shows.

Unfortunately, the nastiness has gotten out of hand and vicious comments are being made simply for viciousness' sake. It's time for viewers, particularly parents of young children, to protest the self-serving bitchiness, because it's setting a bad example.

Trouble is, some people believe that, now that Cowell has set the bitchy standard, talent search programs can't succeed without such a nasty component. Well, they're wrong! If you watch "Rock Star: INXS," you'll know that the TV rock singing competition is a big hit *and* it has some of the best and kindest judges in the biz.

They're none other than the members of the popular rock band INXS—yes, the same group that's staging the tilt to look for a new lead singer for their band.

You'd think that, with so much at stake in the search, they would be as strict and sarcastic as Cowell and his many itchy, bitchy clones. But, you'd be wrong.

The INXS jurors have set a high positive standard with their helpful, insightful and supportive evaluations of the finalists' weekly performances. It's not that they're treating the young singers with kid gloves: they tell it like it is on both their plus and minus points as performers, but they do so with genuine interest in the finalists' development as professional singers.

They also urge the contestants to get out of their respective performing "boxes" and comfort zones, to go beyond imitating established singers and look for a style of their own.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

These words of advice would also help other aspiring singers, so we hope they watch "Rock Star" regularly and learn as much from the show's "gentle jurors" as the finalists have through the weeks and months that the rock talent search has been on the tube.

We trust, too, that local judges of talent shows on TV will get positive pointers from the "Rock Star" jurors. It's time to stop slavishly imitating cruel Cowell, and give genuine talent development a chance to flourish on l ocal TV screens, without the self-serving bitterness and bile that's setting such a bad example for young viewers in these parts.

'Wire in the Blood 2'

Starting Sept. 4, "Wire in the Blood 2" will be telecast every Sunday at 10:35 p.m. on the Hallmark channel. The acclaimed dramatic mini-series reunites topnotch psychologist Dr. Tony Hill (**Robson Green**) and Detective Inspector Carol Jordan (**Hermione Norris**) as they follow a serial killer's bloody trail.

Sneak previews

THE NEW romantic comedy, "Perfect Pitch," starring **Drew Barrymore** and **Jimmy Fallon**, will have sneak previews on Sept. 12 and 13 in Metro Manila theaters. The film opens Sept. 21 in theaters nationwide.

'Don't Believe the Truth'

IT'S been 10 years since Oasis cut an album that's changed the musical landscape. Now, Britains' most popular band is back with "Don't Believe the Truth." Of the album's 11 tracks, **Noel Gallagher** has written five: "Let There Be Love," "Mucky Fingers," "Part of the Queue," "The Importance of Being Idle" and "Lyla."

REVIEW

Hendrix gay...duh?

SEATTLE—Jimi Hendrix might have stayed in the Army. He might have been sent to Vietnam.

Instead, he pretended he was gay.

And with that, he was discharged from the 101st Airborne in 1962, launching a musical career that would redefine the guitar, leave other rock heroes of the day speechless and culminate with his headlining performance of "The Star-Spangled Banner" at Woodstock in 1969.

Subterfuge

Hendrix's subterfuge, contained in his military medical records, is revealed for the first time in Charles R. Cross' new biography, "Room Full of Mirrors." Publicly, Hendrix always claimed he was discharged after breaking his ankle on a parachute jump, but his medical records do not mention such an injury.

In regular visits to the base psychiatrist at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, in spring 1962, Hendrix complained that he was in love with one of his squad mates and that he had become addicted to masturbating, Cross writes. Finally, he was recommended for discharge, due to "homosexual tendencies."

No way

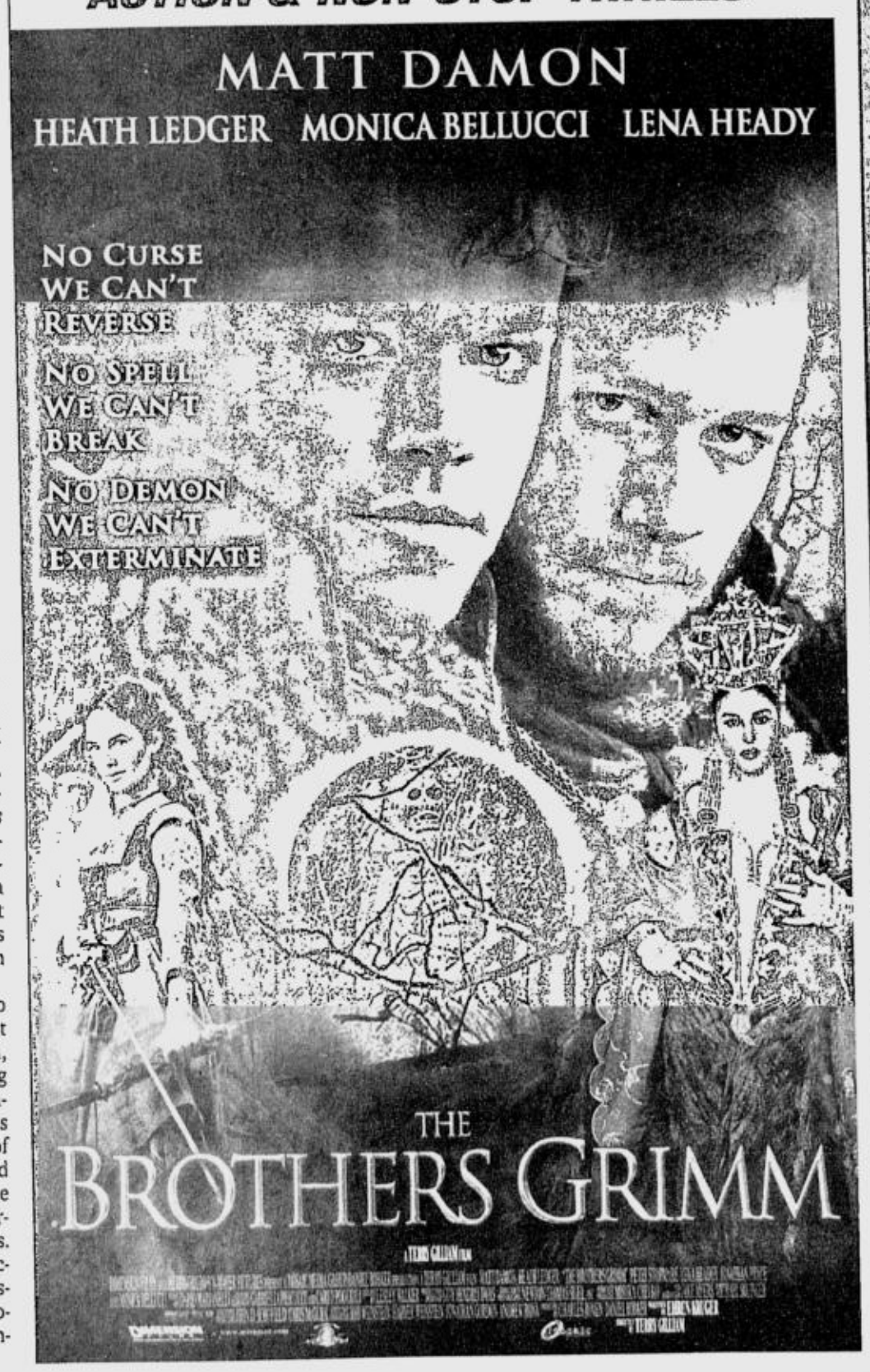
Hendrix's legendary appetite for women negates the notion that he might have been gay, Cross writes.

He just wanted to escape the Army to play music—he had enlisted to avoid jail time after being repeatedly arrested in stolen cars in Seattle, his hometown.

"Room Full of Mirrors," titled after an unreleased Hendrix tune, is being published this summer to coincide with the 35th anniversary of his Sept. 18, 1970, death from a sleeping-pill overdose. *AP*

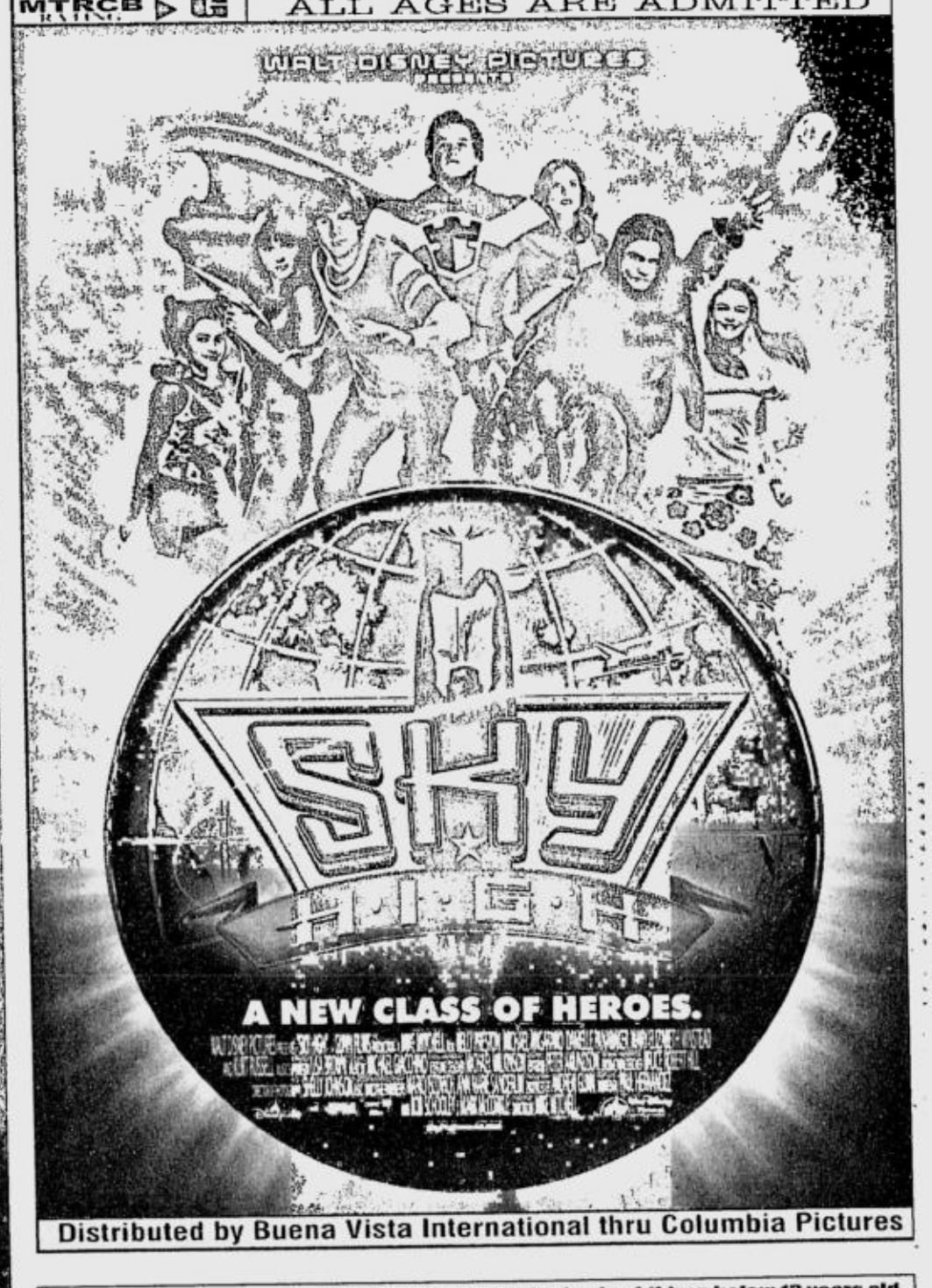
OPENS SEPT. 7

THE BIGGEST FILM FROM MIRAMAX FILLED WITH SPECIAL EFFECTS, ACTION & NON-STOP THRILLS



NOW SHOWING

MTRCB RATING G | ALL AGES ARE ADMITTED



Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures

MTRCB RATING PG13 Warning to parent bringing in children below 13 years old.. The film contains tremendous horror and bloody scenes in fighting the inhuman creatures.

NOW SHOWING

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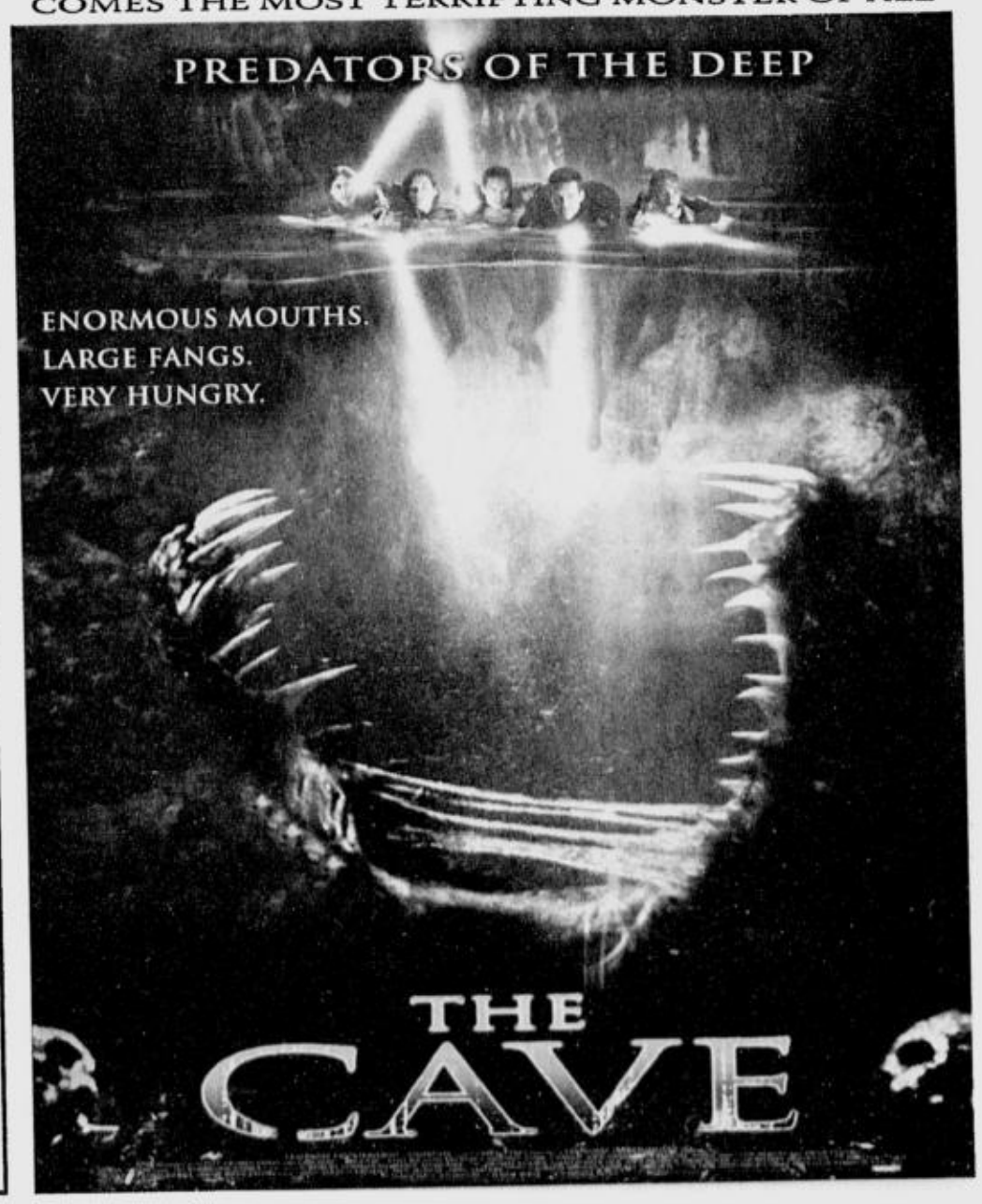
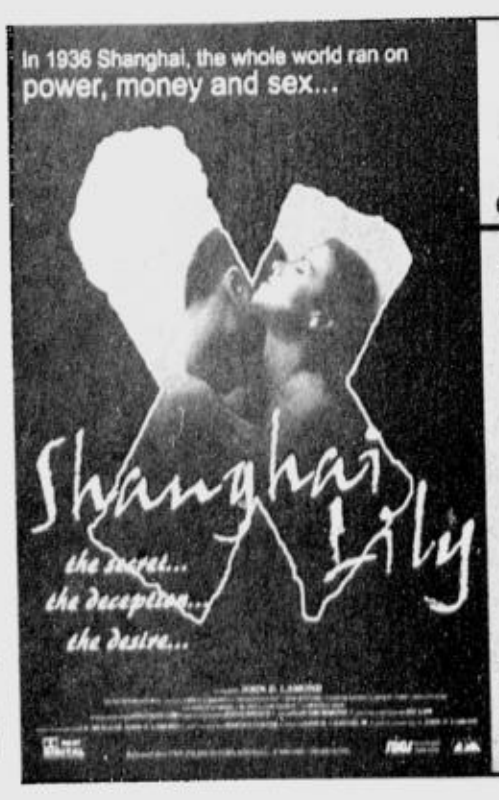
IN THE TRADITION OF *JAWS* AND *ANACONDAS* COMES THE MOST TERRIFYING MONSTER OF ALL





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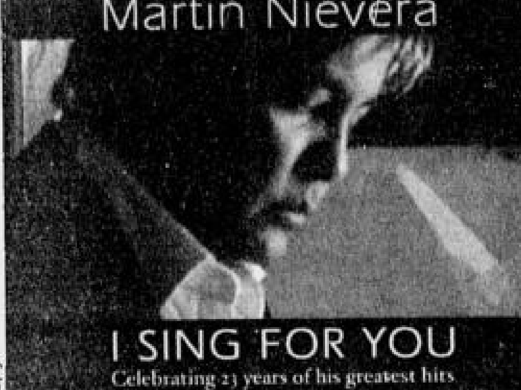
Martin Nievera



September 10, 2005
Saturday • 8:30 pm
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In Q.C.,	SM Sta. Mesa Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3,4,5
In Q.C.,	SM North Edsa Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3,7,8
In Sta. Cruz,	SM San Lazaro Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3,4,5,6
In Las Piñas,	SM Southmall Premiere Cinemas	1,3,4
In Cebu	SM Cebu Premiere Cinemas	1,2,3

Big Shows CENTER Stage

Martin Nievera	Jasmine Trias	Trumpets
I SING FOR YOU	Fil-American Idol LIVE IN CONCERT WITH SPECIAL GUEST: SOUTHBORDER	THE LITTLE MERMAID
September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Southmall Cinema 3	September 10, 2005 Saturday • 8:30pm SM Megamall Cinema 10	September 3-9, 2005 SM Megamall Cinema 10

FOR GUARANTEED SEATS

THE PODIUM 633-8976

1 SKY HIGH 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25FS/09:00LMF/10:40END
2 THE CAVE 11:45FS/12:15MF/02:25/04:35/06:45 08:25LFS/09:00LFS/10:40END

CEBU (032) 231-3876

1 BEWITCHED 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:20FS/09:30LMF/11:10END
2 SKELETON KEY 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:23FS/09:30LMF/11:15END
3 THE CAVE 12:00FS/12:10MF/02:02/03:54/05:46/07:38 09:15LFS/09:30LFS/11:10END

METRO MANILA

SM MEGAMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 VALIANT
6 CINE MANGA
7 PASAWAY NA MULTO
8 SKELETON KEY
9 EVIL EYES
10 LONGEST YARD
11 D' ANOTHERS
12 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
1 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
2 EVIL EYES
3 VALIANT
4 THE GREAT RAID
5 D' ANOTHERS
6 THE CAVE
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH
9 LONGEST YARD
10 SKELETON KEY
11 BEWITCHED
12 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM NORTH EDSA
1 THE CAVE
2 LONGEST YARD
3 SKELETON KEY
4 THE LAZARUS CHILD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 VALIANT
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SKY HIGH

SM CITY MANILA
1 LONGEST YARD
2 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
3 THE CAVE
4 DUKES OF HAZZARD
5 VALIANT
6 SKY HIGH
7 BEWITCHED
8 MUST LOVE DOGS
9 THE GREAT RAID
10 D' ANOTHERS
11 EVIL EYES
12 SKELETON KEY

SM CITY STA MESA
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD
5 MGA KWENTO NI LOLA BASYANG
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 SKELETON KEY
8 EVIL EYES
9 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
10 VALIANT

SM CITY SOUTHMALL
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 DUKES OF HAZZARD
4 LONGEST YARD
5 THE GREAT RAID
6 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE
7 EVIL EYES
8 VALIANT
9 SKELETON KEY
10 D' ANOTHERS

SM SAN LAZARO
1 THE CAVE
2 SKY HIGH
3 LONGEST YARD
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 SKELETON KEY
6 DUKES OF HAZZARD

SM SUPERCENTER SUCAT
1 DUKES OF HAZZARD
2 THE CAVE
3 LONGEST YARD
4 SKY HIGH

SM CITY BICUTAN
1 THE CAVE
2 DUKES OF HAZZARD
3 SKY HIGH
4 LONGEST YARD

LUZON

SM CITY PAMPANGA
1 SKY HIGH
2 VALIANT
3 MUST LOVE DOGS
4 D' ANOTHERS
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY BACOOR
1 LONGEST YARD
2 D' ANOTHERS
3 THE CAVE
4 VALIANT
5 SKY HIGH
6 PASAWAY NA MULTO
7 DUKES OF HAZZARD
8 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS

SM CITY DASMARINAS
1 VALIANT
2 SISTERHOOD IN TRAVELING PANTS
3 CRASH
4 BEWITCHED

SM CITY LUCENA
1 D' ANOTHERS
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 IF ONLY

SM CITY BAGUIO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 BEWITCHED
3 SKELETON KEY
4 CRASH

SM CITY MARILAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SKELETON KEY
3 D' ANOTHERS
4 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY

SM CITY BATANGAS
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 CRASH
3 BEWITCHED
4 THE EYE INFINITY

VISAYAS AND MINDANAO

SM CITY CEBU
1 BEWITCHED
2 SKELETON KEY
3 THE CAVE
4 MUST LOVE DOGS
5 YEAR OF THE YAO
6 EVIL EYES
7 THE GREAT RAID
8 WEDDING CRASHERS

SM CITY ILOILO
1 SISTERHOOD OF TRAVELING PANTS
2 RESERVED
3 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
4 BEWITCHED
5 PUSANG GALA
6 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
7 RESERVED
8 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY DAVAO
1 MUST LOVE DOGS
2 SHAOLIN VS STONE WARRIOR
3 YEAR OF THE YAO
4 SKELETON KEY
5 BEWITCHED
6 THE GREAT RAID

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO
1 THE GREAT RAID
2 CHARLIE & THE CHOCOLATE FACTORY
3 THE EYE INFINITY
4 ICE PRINCESS

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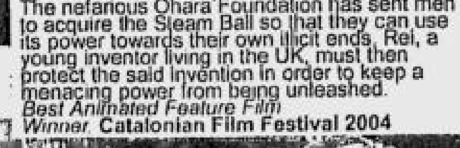

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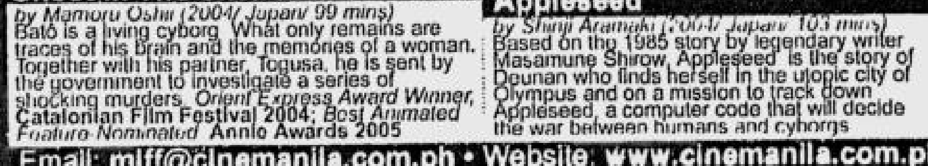
Steamboy
by Katsuhiro Otomo (2004/ Japan/ 126 mins)
The nefarious Ohara Foundation has sent men to acquire the Steam Ball so that they can use its power towards their own illicit ends. Rei, a young inventor living in the UK, must then protect the said invention in order to keep a menacing power from being unleashed.
Best Animated Feature Film Winner, Catalonian Film Festival 2004



Ghost In The Shell 2: Innocence
by Mamoru Oshii (2004/ Japan/ 99 mins)
Bato is a living cyborg. What only remains are traces of his brain and the memories of a woman. Together with his partner, Togusa, he is sent by the government to investigate a series of shocking murders. Orient Express Award Winner, Catalonian Film Festival 2004; Best Animated Feature Nominated, Annie Awards 2005

Appleseed
by Shinji Aramaki (2004/ Japan/ 103 mins)
Based on the 1985 story by legendary writer Masamune Shirow, Appleseed is the story of Deunan who finds herself in the utopic city of Olympus and on a mission to track down Appleseed, a computer code that will decide the war between humans and cyborgs

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JANNO Gibbs and Bing Loyzaga, not so long ago

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CINEMA 4 DUKES OF HAZZARD PG13 11:00, 1:15, 3:30, 5:45, 8:00, 10:15
CINEMA 5 SKY HIGH GP 10:45, 1:05, 3:25, 5:45, 8:05, 10:25

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THE CAVE 1:25,3:35,5.45,7.55,10:05	SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS GP 1:30,4:00,6:30,9:00	LONGEST YARD PG13 12:15,2:45,5:15, 7:45,10:15

Ronaldo to Bing: Just be patient

From page A30

He missed Bing's TV interview, Ronaldo said, but heard about it from a friend. "She's pretty close to me as an in-law, although she doesn't ask my advice," he said. "But my wife said the two of them exchanged text messages regularly."

He said he felt sad about what was happening. "*Pero gan'on talaga*. Everybody experiences major problems in marriage. We don't know what will happen next. I hope [Janno and Bing] will fix things. I wish them the best in everything."

Happy 'lolo'

His daughter Melissa has migrated to the United States with her husband and son. Ronaldo said she is pregnant again, and was expecting a girl. "It feels good to be a grandparent. You can spoil them rotten," he said.

The actor met the press at a lunch to launch the first anniversary special of GMA 7's sitcom, "Bahay Mo Ba 'To." Ronaldo and Tessie Tomas play the conflicting siblings Nene Mulingtapang and Baby Mulingtapang-Benoit.

The show begins a month-long anniversary special on Sept. 6, with Michael V and April Tolentino as special guests in the episode titled "Under the Sea."

The sitcom also stars Keempee de Leon, Francine Prieto, Gladys Reyes, Dino Guevarra, Wendell Ramos, Sherilyn Reyes, Tiya Pusit and Pekto.

This mom and her daughter …

From page A30

Ai-Ai de las Alas has enrolled in a full-time culinary course. After her failed romance with an American whom she met in her concert tour in the United States, will she find the recipe for heartache cure? Heard that she's often seen in the company of her lesbian ex-lover. Oh well … cooking is the way to a man's heart … and somebody with the heart of a man!

Kara David is always a welcome sight on TV. Her refreshing looks balances off the somber news items she delivers. Although she's used to being thrust into dangerous situations, joining "Extra Challenge" was a different kind of experience for her. She teamed up with fellow investigative reporter Jiggy Manicad (the episode will be aired mid-September). For a change, I did some "investigating"on Kara. I found out that she's planning to get hitched soon. Sorry to break the hearts of her countless male admirers.

She revealed: "My boyfriend **Jojo (Tagle)** was my cameraman for the longest time. We have a four-year-old daughter named Julia. *Nagka* develop-*an kami* during a sky diving coverage. I answered him in Mt. Apo!" Will she take her viewers on the ultimate adventure of her life and opt for a Mt. Apo wedding complete with TV coverage? Her show isn't called "I-Witness" for nothing.

While the rest of the "Extra Challenge" crew were about to hit the sack, **Ethel Booba** barged into the room of the cameramen and teased, "Wanna gang rape me?" Even after the cameras stop rolling, Ethel remains wacky. I wonder if her live-in partner, **Alex Crisano**, who has been accused by their former maid of molestation, would claim that the maid lured him that way, too?

9th Avenue

9TH AVENUE is truly one of the hippest pop/R&B bands to hit the music scene. The band is made up of an excellent five-piece rhythm section (**Edu Reyes** on bass, **Teddy Katigbak** on keyboards, **Nico Katigbak** on guitars, **Marco Katigbak** on drums and **Karel Gaurano** on percussions) and three superb vocalists (**Daryl Reyes, Tricia Caparas** and **Lady Onnagan**)

Upon hearing about the RX 93.1 Band breakout, they recorded one of their original songs entitled "Baby" and joined the event. During the finals, the band gave an astounding performance and was clearly the crowd favorite.

One rainy night I chanced upon 9th Avenue in Eastwood. In spite of the downpour, people stayed on and grooved to the band's cool sound. I was amazed when I found out that their CDs were sold out after their gig that night. That's quite a feat for a new band like them. If you want a different kind of music trip, take 9th Avenue.

PERSONAL: Happy Birthday to my darling daughter **Bianchi**. Thanks for being the "mommy" when I'm in one of my moods. I am more than proud to call you mine. *Je t'aime!*

(E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com or dollyanne@truefaithband.com)

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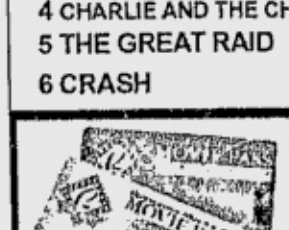
5 THE GREAT RAID	
6 CRASH	



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	4 SISTERHOOD OF THE TRAVELING PANTS	5 MUST LOVE DOGS	6 THE CAVE	7 SKELETON KEY
GB1 GREENBELT 1	1 THE CAVE	2 THE DUKES OF HAZZARD		
GB3 GREENBELT 3	1 THX THE CAVE GUARANTEED SEATS	2 THX THE DUKES OF HAZZARD GUARANTEED SEATS		
	3 TRUTH ABOUT LOVE GUARANTEED SEATS	4 THE LONGEST YARD GUARANTEED SEATS	5 SKY HIGH GUARANTEED SEATS	
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Manderlay *Lars Von Trier (Denmark/USA, 2005)*
The second installment in a trilogy USA - Land of Opportunities, that began with Dogville. The story of slavery in the American South.
Golden Palm-Nominated - Cannes 2005

Kekexili: Mountain Patrol *Lu Chuan (China, 2004)*
A moving true story about volunteers protecting antelope against poachers in the severe mountains of Tibet. *Don Quixote-Special Award* - Berlin 2005

Frozen Land *Aku Louhimies (Finland, 2005)*
Comprises three overlapping stories, the disparate characters of which share a common destiny as a counterfeit banknote touches their lives.
FIPRESCI Prize, Nordic Film Prize, Nordic Vision Award - Göteborg Filmfest 2005
Special Jury Prize - Moscow 2005

Factotum *Bent Hammer (USA/Norway, 2005)*
A jack-of-all-trades wanders around LA trying to live off jobs which don't interfere with his primary interests - women, drinking, gambling and writing. Stars: Matt Dillon, Lili Taylor, Fisher Stevens and Marisa Tomei *Directors Fortnight* - Cannes 2005

Daybreak *Bjorn Runge (Sweden, 2003)*
A dark drama about the destructive nature of dishonesty and betrayal.
Blue Angel, Silver Berlin Award - Berlinale 2004

Bishonen *Yonfan (Hong Kong, 1998)*
Hong Kong's star gigolo falls in love with a hunky policeman. A story of false identities and deceit ensues.

Hawaii, Oslo *Erik Poppe (Denmark/Norway, 2004)*
The story of a handful of people who cross each other's path without necessarily knowing each other, during the hottest day of the year in Oslo

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ENTERTAINMENT

"IF THEY want my advice—I'm just waiting to be asked."

Ronaldo to Bing: Just be patient

By Marinel R. Cruz

ACTOR Ronaldo Valdez said he wished his daughter-in-law, Bing Loyzaga were "more patient" because his son, Janno Gibbs, would eventually "outgrow his childish ways."

"*Kung magagawa niyang pagtiyagaan, pagpasensyahan na lang niya muna*," Ronaldo told INQUIRER Entertainment on Tuesday. "Janno is still young, *magsasawa rin 'yon*."

In an interview on the show biz talk program "The Buzz" on ABS-CBN last week, Bing admitted that she had split up with Janno. She said one of the reasons was another woman.

In the picture

Many women have in fact been dragged into the picture, including Sexbomb dancer Jopay Paguia and Ara Mina's sister Christine Reyes. Both women have refused to comment on the issue.

On "The Buzz," Bing said she wanted his husband back. Then she refused to grant any more interviews.

Janno is currently in Switzerland for a series of shows with Vina Morales.

Just waiting

Ronaldo admitted that he had heard of the couple's troubles, but said he decided to keep quiet. He explained: "They never confided to me. I guess they were trying to fix things between them. I never confronted Janno. *Buhay n'ya yun*."

He continued: "There were instances when they consulted me and my wife about several things. *Kami naman kasi*, we're just waiting to be asked. *Hindi naman kami nagkulang sa payo*. Now that our children are adults, they are responsible for their actions."

Ronaldo said he always told Janno to "stay away from trouble as much as possible. If you can't avoid it, be careful, be discreet."

RONALDO/A28

This mom and her daughter feed on illusion

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

GUESS LIST:

Guess who this mother and daughter are! One could write a book about their endless boo-boos. They are already a laughing stock in the biz but it seems they thrive on inanities. Their latest antic happened during the lull of a taping. The mother's voice was blaring as she talked on her cell phone. "Hi (name of a TV host)! Yup, my daughter misses you, too!" She wanted everybody to hear what she was saying. She even yelled out to her TV host/singer daughter "Hey! It's ----- on the phone!" The mom has been concocting stories about the TV host being head over heels in love with her daughter. Suddenly her cell phone rang! Apparently there was nobody on the other end of the line. And you thought "Hello Garci!" was strange, huh? Now there's, "Hello Nobody!"

Guess who this hunk is! One segment reporter of a talk show used to have a big crush on him until she got to interview the actor. Imagine a saliva shower: the reporter and her mic got drenched. So now she no longer salivates over the actor!

Guess who this sexy actress/singer is! When asked about a young actor being linked to her, she blurts out the (in)famous last words, "We're just friends!" But her actions say otherwise. She gives away inspirational books to everyone she bumps into, saying, "(Name of the young actor) wants you to have this!" She gets a kick out of name-dropping the actor, with a matching twinkle of the eyes.

Her production assistant, who could no longer stand it, told a reporter: "*Binili na niya yata lahat ng kopya ng libro*!" She will definitely be a "closed book" as far as the actor is concerned when he discovers her modus operandi. As the reporter put it, "*Nabuking dahil sa book*!" And that will blow her chances of ever having a "booking" with the young actor!

Bits and pieces

Got a surprise call from my longtime friend **Aga Muhlach**. I remember him as a chubby teen who never got tired of dancing. His sis **Arlene**, cousin **Liezl** and I would usually leave him on the dance floor. I texted Aga a belated birthday greeting. Upon receiving my text, he called me right away. He's one of the few people in the biz who always makes you feel that he's really there for you even if you don't see each other that much. Whenever I'm embroiled in some show biz controversy, "Morning" (his pet name) never fails to give me the most sensible advice. I am looking forward to watching his movie, "Dubai," with **Claudine Barretto** and **John Lloyd Cruz**. It will also be shown in Milan, San Francisco, Vancouver, Saipan Vienna and, of course, Dubai. It's high time the world got a taste of Aga's "Hugh Grant" charms.

THIS MOM/ A28

ROUNDUP

Gwyneth's opinion

GWYNETH Paltrow

JENNIFER Aniston

NEW YORK—Gwyneth Paltrow says the publicity of Brad Pitt's breakup with Jennifer Aniston could have been avoided.

"It would have been a lot easier on Brad Pitt and Jennifer Aniston now if they had not talked to the press about each other and everything to begin with," Paltrow says in this week's Time magazine, currently on newsstands.

The 32-year-old actress went through heavy tabloid coverage herself when she dated Pitt in the 1990s. They broke off their engagement in 1997.

Paltrow, now married to Coldplay frontman Chris Martin, values her privacy. The couple have a year-old daughter, Apple.

Last week, a California judge signed off on the divorce of Aniston and Pitt. Aniston told Vanity Fair, "The sad thing, for me, is the way it's been reduced to a Hollywood cliché—or maybe it's just a human cliché."

AP

OPM revenge

IN A RECENT press gathering for his Araneta Coliseum concert "Symphony of the Heart," Gary Valenciano quoted South Border leader Jay Durias as saying that OPM was enjoying a resurgence in spite of piracy.

"It's because of the persistence and passion of Pinoy bands," Gary V enthused. "Sales of local CDs is higher than foreign albums. The market share used to be 30-70 in favor of foreign albums; now it's the exact opposite."

Durias told INQUIRER Entertainment: "Actually, I was referring to airtime. OPM is now heard more often on radio and TV (on music channels like Myx and MTV Asia) than foreign songs. Also, we are hearing more original compositions than revivals. I guess, that also translates to CD sales."

However it's put, it must be music to record execs' ears.

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Peso slips to 56.295 to a dollar

Political worries adding to jitters

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO yesterday closed at a month-low of 56.295 against the dollar as the impeachment proceedings in Congress added to jitters over escalating global oil prices and the sharply weakening Indonesian rupiah.

Heavy month-end corporate demand for dollars also battered the local currency, which fell to an intra-day low of 56.30 to the greenback yesterday and ended even weaker than Tuesday's closing of 56.20.

Currency traders said that since the local currency had hit a crucial 56.30 barrier, the peso may next test its all-time low of 56.45, which was last seen on July 8 or the first trading day after the Supreme Court suspended the implementation of the expanded value-added tax law.

Jose Emmanuel Hilado, president of foreign exchange association ACI Philippines, said the walkout in Congress by pro-impeachment congressmen on Tuesday happened past trading hours and was thus digested by the market only yesterday.

"There was also concern that what happened in Indonesia could trigger a contagion, but I don't think this will happen because the policy issues there are different," Hilado said.

PESO/ B4

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As of 5 p.m., Aug. 31, 2005

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per ounce Hong Kong, Aug. 31, 2005

STOCK MARKET

Shares close 0.75% lower on oil worries

SHARE prices closed 0.75 percent lower yesterday on continued worries over record-high oil prices and a delay in the Supreme Court's ruling on a crucial tax measure, dealers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 14.73 points to 1,936.90 after trading between 1,931.34 and 1,951.63. Volume was light at 1.03 billion shares valued at P627.05 million. *AFP*

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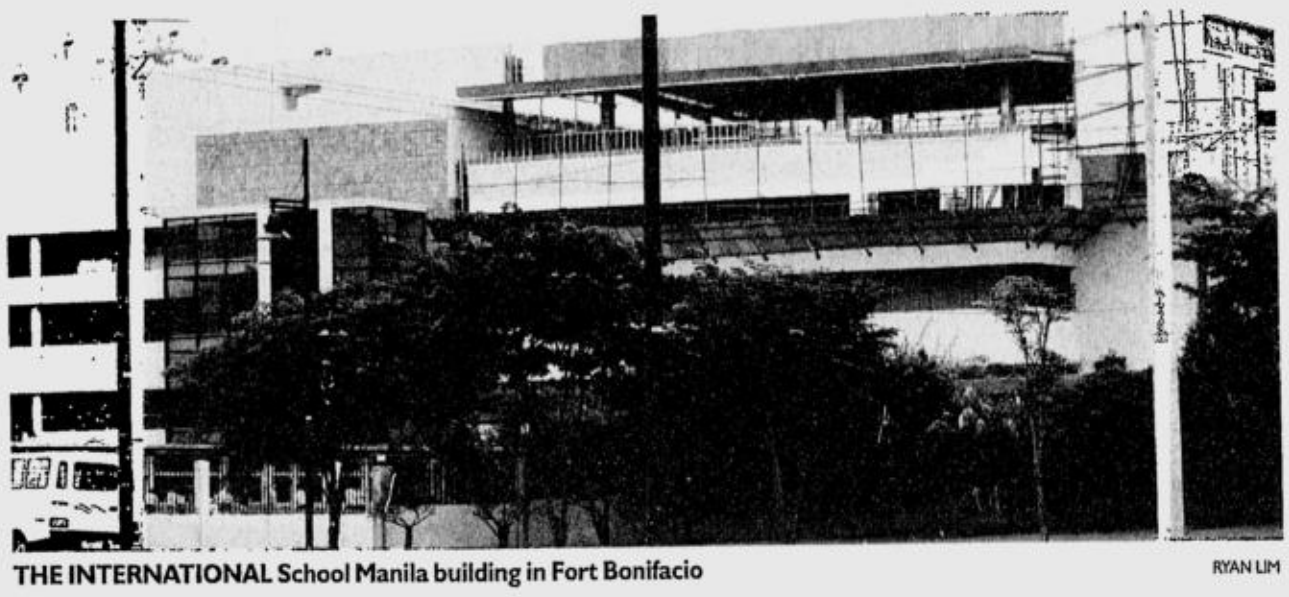

THE INTERNATIONAL School Manila building in Fort Bonifacio RYAN LIM

INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL ROW

RP credibility put to a test

By Daxim L. Lucas

(First of 2 parts)

SPECIAL REPORT

ACCESS to high-quality education for their children is an important consideration for expatriates who come to work in the Philippines.

Thus, the local expatriate community raised a howl of protest when the Department of Labor and Employment ordered the auction of International School Manila's (ISM) assets to settle its back wages with its teaching staff.

Beyond being a mere labor dispute, the issue has been elevated to one about the Philippines' desirability as a destination for foreign businessmen and the investment they bring.

A statement issued last week by the joint Foreign Chambers of the Philippines raised the specter of a massive drain in investments should ISM close down due to the planned auction of its assets.

"Closure [of the school] could result in [the] headquarters of our member firms reassessing their business plans for the Philippines," the statement said. "The competitiveness of the Philippines would be weakened; the potential adverse consequences for foreign investment are worrisome."

Wanting more

ISM's legal setback is the latest of a string of government and court decisions that have highlighted the lack of a so-called "level playing field" for local and foreign parties in the local business scene, according to critics.

In the case of the International School, the Supreme Court ruled with finality five years ago that it was illegal for the 85-year old non-profit organization to continue implementing a two-tiered pay scale for its foreign- and local-hired faculty.

The decision stemmed from a long simmering complaint among locally hired ISM teachers that they were being discriminated against, salary wise, despite having to put in equal work as their foreign-hired colleagues.

The high tribunal's decision effectively abolished the school's two-tiered pay scale, making locally hired

RP CREDIBILITY/ B4

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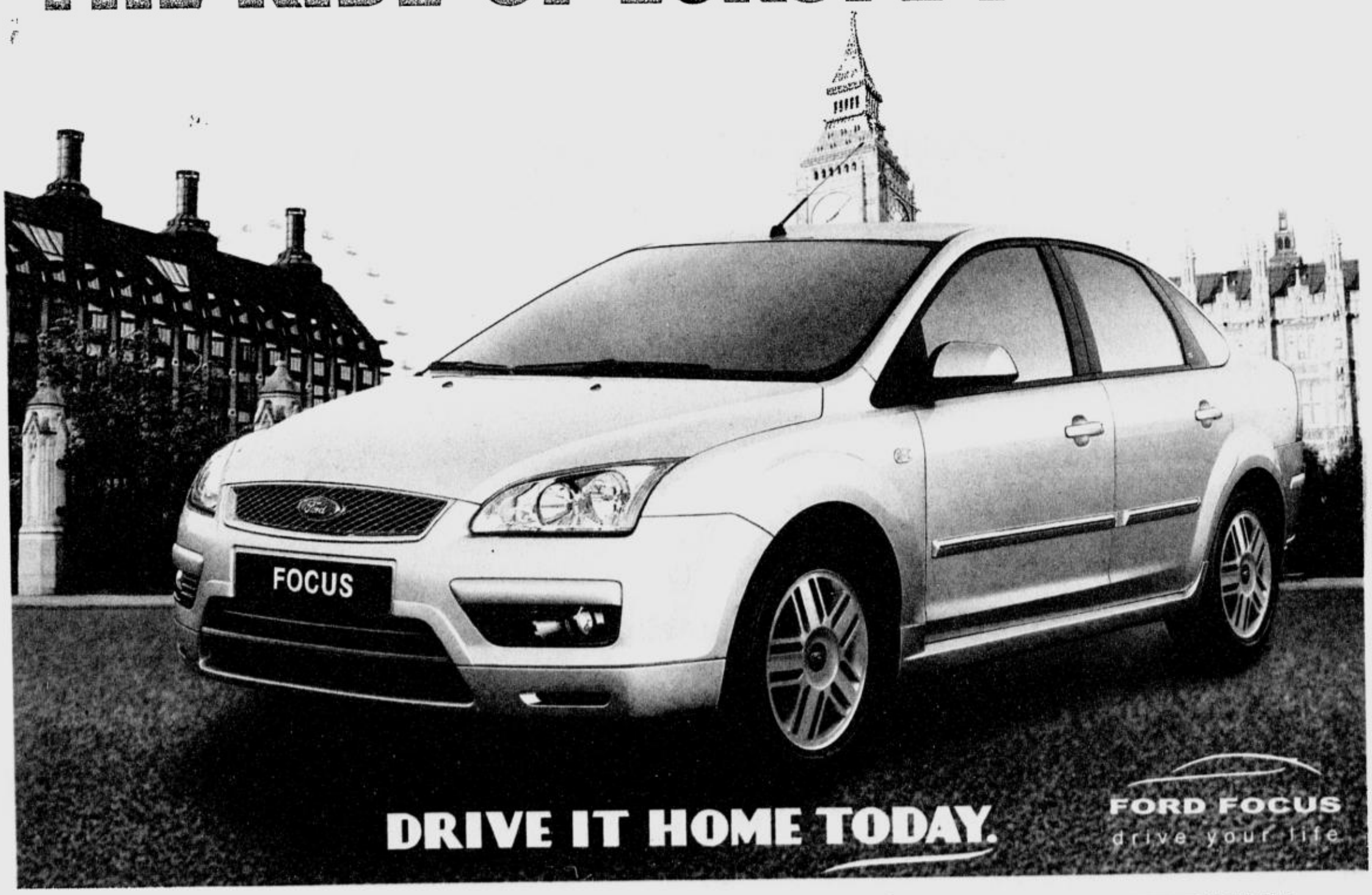

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Letter on CAP

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

FOLLOWING is the letter from SEC general accountant Roberto G. Manabat, regarding our column last week on the SEC plan to take over the country's biggest education pre-need plan company CAP, which has 700,000 to 800,000 plan buyers all over the country.

"This refers to your column on Aug. 27, 2005 where you mentioned that I ordered CAP to pay a monthly fee of P100,000 to Mr. Mario Aguas as comptroller.

To set the record straight, CAP itself appointed Mr. Mario Aguas at SEC's recommendation.

This is evidenced by CAP Board Resolution No. 39 series of 2003 arising from a meeting held on July 25, 2003 formalizing the appointment and the P100,000 monthly salary of Mr. Aguas.

The salary was to cover, on top of his regular duties, attendance in monthly board meetings and the more frequent meetings of various board committees.

The per diem for the monthly board meeting for a CAP director amounted to P25,000 in July 2003.

His monthly salary, net of the per diem, was therefore only P75,000 which may be furthered reduced if you factor in the meetings of the board committees such as the cost reduction and the audit committees for which he was not compensated.

In addition, the scope of the work of a comptroller is very much broader than that of a receiver or liquidator whose monthly fees may have been limited by SEC to P50,000.

In addition, comptrollership is a full-time job requiring daily hours unlike a receiver or liquidator who normally works on a part-time basis.

Aside from the foregoing, we deemed the salary reasonable for the following reasons:

- CAP had a big volume of transactions the material ones of which he had to verify
- CAP has many subsidiaries and affiliates which necessarily have to be included in his review, especially as to related party transactions
- The amount is within the range of the gross compensation (i.e. not just the salary) of comparative CAP officers as he was purely salary-based and did not receive commissions and other emoluments.
- As a measure of his professional worth, Mr. Aguas received much more when he was in SGV as a senior partner as he is backed by more than 30 years of professional experience plus his graduate degree from a reputable US university and overseas training.
- The complexity of the problems in CAP requires an experienced and senior professional like Mr. Aguas and there is a price to pay for competence and experience.

Lastly, by dwelling too much on this monthly salary, we are losing sight of the bigger problems facing CAP today.

In the accountant's lingo, this amount is considered immaterial in relation to the overall financial situation of CAP."

Gov't gets ₱10B from retail bonds

By Michelle V. Remo

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday raised P10 billion from the auction of five-year Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs).

Banks bought the government securities for resale to small investors.

Yesterday's auction of the initial P10-billion RTB offering was held to set the government securities' coupon rate.

With the high volume of bids, reaching a total of P16.6 billion, the retail bonds fetched a coupon rate of 10.625 percent, a touch below last year's rate of 11.745 percent.

After the auction, the Bureau of Treasury immediately made P30 billion more worth of RTBs available to the public through accredited selling agents at a coupon rate of 10.625 percent.

"The auction results showed that there was a huge appetite for the RTBs. Many investors like RTBs because these provide them with quarterly coupons and make them able to preserve their principal investment," said National Treasurer Omar Cruz in a press briefing yesterday.

RTBs, unlike regular Treasury bonds, pay interest to the investor on a quarterly basis until maturity. The interest is based on the coupon rate.

CRUZ

Upon maturity, the investors would get back their entire original investment.

Catering to small investors, RTBs also require a minimum required investment of just P5,000.

"For the government, it is important that it nurtures retail investments. That is why the Treasury required that at least 45 percent of the P40 billion RTB offering be awarded to individuals rather than institutional investors," he said.

Cruz said the 10.625-percent coupon rate was favorable to the government, considering that in the secondary market, five-year RTBs were selling at 10.78 and 10.8 percent.

The last time the government floated RTBs was in July 2004, when it offered and raised P42 billion worth of retail bonds.

The coupon rate then stood at 11.745 percent.

During last year's offering of RTBs, the government required that small investors only get at least 35 percent of the total offering.

"We want more individual investors to help fulfill the objective of deepening the domestic capital market," Cruz said.

Qualified to sell RTBs are: Allied Bank, BDO Capital, BDO Universal Bank, BPI Capital, China Bank, Deutsche Bank, Development Bank of the Philippines, Equitable-PCI Bank, Export-Import Bank, First Metro Investment Corp., ING Bank, Land Bank of the Philippines, Metrobank, Multinational Investment Bank, Philippine National Bank, Rizal Commercial Banking Corp, Union Bank and United Coconut Planters Bank.

SEC told to justify Platinum valuation

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE MAKATI Regional Trial Court yesterday questioned the move of the Securities and Exchange Commission's (SEC) to slash the value of the real estate assets of Platinum Plans Philippines Inc. by P1.1 billion.

RTC Judge Romeo Barza of Branch 61 yesterday asked the SEC to justify its move by identifying the rule that provided it the authority to change the value of the pieces of property owned by the pre-need firm.

The actual value of the pieces of property is still being deliberated in court.

SEC assistant director Nonilonia Ambat said the adjustments were made since the SEC found in its audit of Platinum's financial books that a number of its real estate assets had encumbrances and loans which were not approved by the SEC.

Further, the SEC used appraised values of some of Platinum's Tagaytay properties done by Cuervo Appraisers which were lower than what the pre-need plan reported.

SEC lawyer Myla Amboy said SEC has 10 days within which to file additional comments on its opposition to Platinum's rehabilitation plan.

Likewise, Platinum Plans has 10 days to file its comments to SEC's opposition to its rehabilitation plan.

The SEC, in an earlier comment submitted to the court, said Platinum was actually insolvent and can no longer be rehabilitated.

SEC further said the pre-need company should be liquidated to prevent further dissipation of its remaining assets.

The SEC said total assets of the pre-need firm stood at P2.95 billion against total liabilities of P3.24 billion as of December 2004.

Its capital deficiency was at P290.9 million. Total liquid assets was placed at P5.3 million.

This ran counter to Platinum's own report which pegged its total assets at P3.9 billion and liabilities at P3.1 billion, showing it has enough assets to cover its total liabilities.

To address the liabilities of its 37,000 plan holders, Platinum has proposed options under its rehabilitation plan.

Pamela Jalandoni of Balgos & Perez Law offices said yesterday that Platinum has proposed to convert open-ended plans to fixed value plans equivalent to double the value of the original gross contract price (GCP).

RECYCLED CLOTHES

Wagwag may be a profitable business and consumer trend in the mountain towns of the Cordillera, where it grew into a booming enterprise, but the denizens of this town know another profit area: yarns. This Mt. Province woman breaks down the yarn of wagwag knit clothes imported from abroad, and sells the yarn to tailors who make new dresses here.

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BPI closes ₱2.4-B NPL sale

BANK of the Philippine Islands recently closed its P2.4-billion non performing loans (NPL) sale to Asset Pool A (SPV-AMC) Inc. and Avenue Asia Special Situations Fund III—I.P. funds managed by Avenue Capital Group, a leader in the distressed asset market in the United States.

The NPL sale is the second of such transactions undertaken by BPI. Last year, in a milestone deal under the SPV Law, BPI sold an P8.6-billion NPL portfolio to Philippine Asset Investment (SPV-AMC) Inc.

Avenue Capital Group manifests its positive view and confidence in the Philippines with the closure of this NPL transaction. Likewise, BPI continues to lead the way in undertaking landmark transactions to unlock values and provide better returns to its shareholders.

Security Bank declares dividend

THE BOARD of Security Bank Corp. yesterday approved the declaration of a P0.50 cash dividend payable upon approval of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

The cash dividend consists of a regular semestral cash dividend of P0.25 per share and a P0.25 per share special cash dividend. The excellent earnings performance of the bank prompted the decision to declare the additional special cash dividend.

Security Bank has consistently increased dividend payments since it first started its cash dividend declaration in 2002. The bank paid a P0.50 cash dividend in June.

The newly approved dividend declaration brought to P1.00 per share the total cash dividend earned by investors for the year, or double the amount paid last year. It also represents a cash dividend pay-out ratio of 44 percent of 2004 earnings.

The bank is one of the few in the industry with a positive free capital.

It continues to successfully implement a customer-focused differentiation strategy geared towards building total banking relationships in its three core businesses namely: Corporate relationship, consumer and investment banking.

Security Bank ended the first semester 2005 with earnings of P670 million, representing a 41-percent income growth from the earnings of P476 million in the same period last year.

Its total resources as of June amounted to P103 billion, 17 percent higher than the year end level of P88 billion.

FORMER Trade Secretary Juan B. Santos (extreme left, standing) joins Monark's selected scholars, including Arnel Mosquera (third from left), and Monark CEO Jose Antonio Banson (standing, extreme right).

Firm teaches youth to work its equipment

By Christine A. Gaylican

CORPORATE CITIZEN

WORKING a piece of metal on a hot iron furnace makes Arnel Mosquera squint, but he still manages to carefully piece together the automotive part that he has been fixing as part of his on-the-job training at Monark Equipment Corp.

"It is very risky but it can be done. Extra patience is needed at every step," Mosquera says in Filipino.

Mosquera has always been diligent and meticulous and these traits paid off as he is one of the lucky youth who won a two-year scholarship program from Monark's foundation.

Monark, a Filipino-owned family company, is the exclusive distributor in the Philippines of Caterpillar heavy equipment used for construction and excavation.

Monark, however, has always believed that profit is not its sole reason for being in business.

Integral part

Monark president and CEO Jose Antonio Banson says corporate social responsibility should be an integral part of every company's corporate vision.

"This is going beyond profit, and what you gain by seeing a community or an individual prosper is more lasting," says Banson.

Its corporate responsibility is mainly expressed through the Monark Foundation Technical Institute that has been providing scholarship and technical training subsidies to out-of-school youth since 1997.

The technical and vocational institute is accredited by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

"It plans to address the lack of highly skilled technicians servicing the equipment industry," Banson says.

Mosquera is one of the 13 in the latest batch of Monark Foundation scholars.

He will be an all-around heavy and automotive equipment mechanic after his course.

Mosquera passed the rigorous screening for the Heavy Equipment Operation and Automotive Mechanics course under the Dual Technology System (DTS) adopted from Germany.

Part of the program is to complete seven trimesters of the course subsidized by the MFTI.

The vocational course program is estimated to cost P19,500 a semester.

PBSP Step-Up program

The Philippine Business for Social Progress, through its Strategic Private Sector Partnerships for Urban Poverty Reduction program, will provide P4,000 while the foundation will shoulder P15,500.

Students under the program are also given P50 a day as transportation allowance.

Monark allows the vocational scholars to practice their skills on the company's equipment and materials (known as metal consumables that are expensive and unrecoverable).

Technical and vocational education and training have proven to be viable and cost-effective alternatives to higher university education.

"This is where the synergy between the business community and PBSP steps in. Scholarship grants like those awarded by Monark Foundation to out-of-school youth also assures them of gainful employment," Banson says.

Monark Foundation will also help its graduates secure jobs in partner companies.

"For those who will opt to organize themselves into manpower services, livelihood loan assistance can be provided to finance working capital and acquisition of tools," adds Banson.

Volunteer program

With its nationwide operations employing 400 regular and 150 project workers, the company has also established an employee volunteers program, which gets employees to share their time and skills in community-based projects.

Meanwhile, at the Teresa quarry site in Libis, Quezon City, Mosquera buckles down to work on a torno machine as part of his training.

"This really requires hard work and full concentration. I do not mind the extra effort. I know it's worthwhile and I will be able to help my family after I finish my training here," shares Mosquera.

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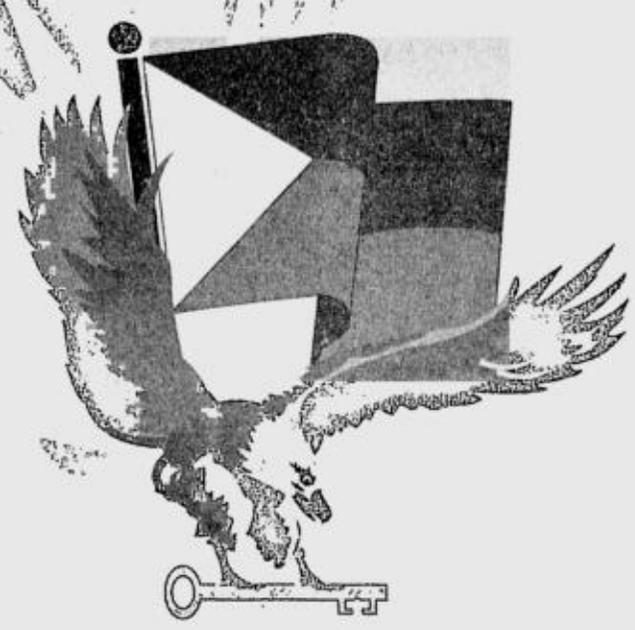

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Q&A:

1. What are Retail Treasury Bonds (RTBs)?

The RTBs are part of the government's savings mobilization program designed to make government securities available to retail investors, hence, the name Retail Treasury Bonds. It is issued by the Republic of the Philippines through the Bureau of the Treasury (the "BTr"). This issue of the RTBs will have a maturity of 5 years. Interest or coupon payments will be paid quarterly compared to the regular Treasury Bonds which are paid semi-annually.

2. Why invest in RTBs?

The RTBs are designed to provide a safe, high-yielding and affordable savings instrument.

RTBs are safe. They are considered practically risk-free because they constitute the direct, unconditional and general obligation of the Republic of the Philippines.

RTBs are high-yielding. Interest rates are superior to other investments.

RTBs are affordable. The minimum denomination is only P5,000 and in multiples of P5,000 thereafter.

3. Who can purchase the RTBs?

The RTBs aim to cater to retail investors such as individuals and corporations who are looking for a safe, affordable and high-yielding investment for their savings.

4. Where and when can an investor purchase RTBs?

The RTBs will be sold to the public during the Public Offering (PO) which is scheduled from August 31 to September 6, 2005. The PO is the designated period given to the public to subscribe to the RTBs through the Issue Managers (BPI Capital Corporation, Development Bank of the Philippines, First Metro Investment Corporation, Land Bank of the Philippines) and the other Dealers. Since only a limited amount of RTBs shall be issued, the BTr has the option to shorten the PO period. Thus it will accept subscriptions for RTBs on a "first-come-first-serve basis".

The terms and conditions applicable to the RTBs as well as copies of the complete documentation will be made available during the PO by each of the Issue Managers and Dealers.

After the PO, investors may still purchase the RTBs in the secondary market at prevailing market rates.

5. How does an investor participate in the PO?

Investors may purchase the RTBs over the counter from the Dealer nearest them, subject to the documentary and minimum deposit requirements of each Dealer. Payment procedures for investment in RTBs may vary from one Dealer to another.

In case investors do not have an existing deposit account with a Dealer, they will be required to open a peso deposit account or designate an existing peso account where interest payment and principal redemption of the RTBs will be credited.

6. What are the risks involved in investing in RTBs?

The RTBs are considered having the least credit-risk because they represent the direct and unconditional obligation of the government thereby enjoying the highest certainty of payment. The yield is assured if the investor holds on to the bond until maturity. However, if an investor opts to sell the RTBs in the secondary market prior to its maturity, then it will be subject to interest rate risk depending on the prevailing market rate at the time the RTBs are sold in the secondary market.

7. What is an investor's proof of ownership?

The Dealers will sell the RTBs to individuals and other investors on a non-recourse basis, documented through confirmations of outright sale (the "Confirmations of Sale") issued by the Dealer in favor of the investor. Investors may pick up these Confirmations of Sale a few days after the close of the PO from the offices of the Dealer.

No certificate will be issued to investors as ownership by individuals and other investors will be registered electronically under the BTr's Registry of Scripless Securities.

8. Can an investor sell his investment in the RTBs after the Issue Date?

RTBs are considered marketable securities and have historically enjoyed a secondary market. The Dealer from whom the RTBs were purchased may assist the investor, on a best-efforts basis, in selling the RTBs in the secondary market at prevailing market rates.

9. Are there tax-free RTBs?

Interest income on RTBs is subject to the 20% final withholding tax. Only tax-exempt institutions duly-accredited by the Bureau of Internal Revenue are exempt from payment of the 20% final withholding tax.

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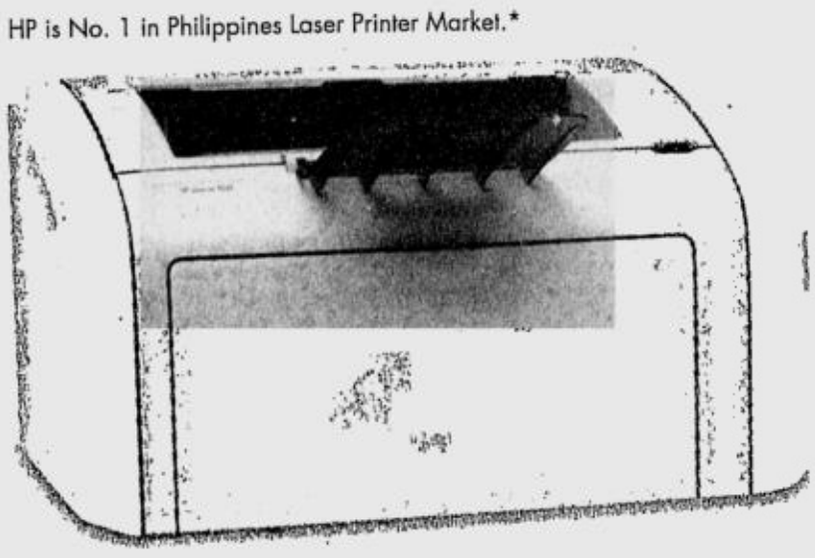

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Petron says exports boosted profit

₱5.73-B net income in 2004, 1st half of 2005

By Clarissa S. Batino

PETRON Corp. yesterday said about 38 percent of its P2.31 billion in net profit in the first half and the P3.42 billion in net earnings last year came from higher sales overseas.

The country's biggest oil refiner, in explaining where its profits came from, said it wanted to correct any wrong impression that it was taking advantage of surging crude oil prices to milk local consumers.

Exports in the first semester grew 18 percent to 2.26 million barrels from 1.92 million barrels in the same period last year, according to Petron.

A lawmaker pointed out the other day that Petron and Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. yielded a combined P11.6 billion in net profit for the whole of 2004 and the first semester of 2005.

Catanduanes Rep. Joseph Santiago said the two major oil players were enjoying "massive pricing power" due to soaring oil prices.

Petron holds 38.1 percent of the market followed by Shell with 32.2 percent. Caltex has 16 percent while the new players account for 13.7 percent.

Shell registered a net profit of P2.87 billion in the first half and P2.98 billion in the whole of 2004. The multinational player said its non-fuel business like the Select stores along major highways have been boosting profits.

Petron pointed out the subsidy it had been giving to public utility vehicles had averaged P100 million a year.

Out of Petron's more than 1,200 stations nationwide, 101 outlets offer a discount of P1 a liter to PUVs. It started giving out subsidies in 2003 when prices of fuel, particularly diesel, started going up.

"We wish to assure the public that we adjust our pump prices only when absolutely necessary to reflect our costs. We have also been implementing programs to lessen the impact of high international oil prices," said Petron's Public Affairs manager Virginia Ruivivar in a statement.

The company, which is 40 percent owned by the government, is also the last to increase pump prices whenever there are adjustments, added Ruivivar. Petron is also 40 percent owned by Saudi Aramco and 20 percent by the public and its employees.

Unleaded gasoline now sells at an average of P32.93 a liter while the retail price of diesel is P30.95 a liter.

The government said prices of petroleum products in the country were still among the lowest in the region amid surging prices of crude oil in the world market.

In Hong Kong, for instance, unleaded gasoline is sold at an average price of P93.81 a liter and P36.25 in Thailand. Diesel sells for P58.31 a liter in Hong Kong and P31.95 in Thailand.

Petron said its profits were modest compared to those of other industries. This year, the oil refiner expects to book a net income of P3.6 billion.

The company said it had been aggressively pursuing its export strategy to take advantage of favorable prices abroad and expand its presence in the region.

Petron said investments in new facilities were helping improve local operations. Among these were the recently commissioned $100-million Clean Air-compliant facilities such as Gas Oil Hydrotreater and an Isomerization Unit.

The company said it would invest $250 million to develop more petrochemical streams from 2006 to 2010. Funding will come from a combination of foreign borrowings and internally generated funds.

Petron said that domestic sales dropped 9 percent in the first semester at only 22.88 million barrels due to weak demand.

Peso slips to 56.295 to a dollar

From page B1

The rupiah recently fell to its lowest level since April 2001 on concerns over surging crude oil prices, which are in turn constraining Indonesia's budget because the government subsidizes oil to keep prices affordable. This has prompted the Indonesian central bank to raise interest rates to prevent the currency's freefall.

Unlike Indonesia, Hilado noted that oil prices were no longer being subsidized in the Philippines.

"Also, they have seen some capital outflows from their financial market," he said.

"I don't think the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas will hike its own interest rates too soon unless inflation rises. But with the higher oil prices, sooner or later, this will inevitably seep into the system," Hilado said.

The local foreign exchange market, which traded $499 million yesterday, was also weighed down by lingering concerns over rising oil prices.

Crude prices surged above $70 a barrel yesterday on fears of supply shortfalls due to the extensive damage caused by hurricane Katrina on refinery facilities in the Gulf of Mexico.

The price of crude oil for October delivery rose as high as $70.57 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex) midmorning in electronic trading in Singapore, before slipping back to $70.40. During New York trading, oil futures hit $70.85, the highest since trading began on the Nymex in 1983.

Oil prices are now more than 60 percent higher from a year ago, but still below the inflation-adjusted high of about $90 a barrel seen in 1980.

The head of the oil-producing cartel Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries admitted Tuesday that he feared crude prices were nearing levels that the global economy could not keep pace with.

RP credibility put to a test

From page A1

ISM teachers the most highly paid instructors in the country in the entire spectrum of the academic education system.

"Many receive seven times the pay of a full professor at the University of the Philippines," the foreign chambers' statement said.

Having won an initial victory with the equalization of their pay scales, members of the teachers' union—the International School Alliance of Educators (ISAE)—now want the Supreme Court's decision implemented retroactively. Union members, including several retired teachers, are asking the school to pay them back wages and benefits computed based on the new salary levels.

"The unresolved labor dispute concerns not equal pay, but a claim for back pay and back benefits differential by a group of 167 members of the ISM teachers' union, a majority of whom are retired, and whom collectively asked the [Department of Labor and Employment] to award them $7.1 million, an average of $42,500 each," the foreign chambers' statement pointed out.

The foreign chambers—which count the American Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines as one of its leading members—also hinted at some degree of intellectual dishonesty among union members, noting that "the claimants have used dollars in calculating their claim although their salaries were in pesos."

Despite this, the labor department garnished ISM's estimated P13 million in cash with Bank of the Philippine Islands and Citibank N.A. Since this is insufficient to cover the union members' claims, the DOLE also ordered the auction on Monday, Sept. 5, of the school's assets—mainly its buildings and facilities on a 7.5-hectare lot in Fort Bonifacio.

ISM claims that a monetary award of this magnitude—and the looming auction—will impede its ability to continue operating.

Locally based foreign business interests like the American Chamber of Commerce now warn of dire consequences for the country if the school closes because of the DOLE-mandated auction.

"This will have a serious effect on our member companies, many of which are Fortune 500 firms and multilateral aid agencies," said Amcham president Rick Santos.

In an interview, Santos—who also heads the local unit of property consulting firm CB Richard Ellis—said he was personally concerned about the issue because his own children study at ISM, calling it a "landmark institution."

The real issues

To be sure, ISM's labor dispute can hardly be called a case of racial discrimination. Court documents revealed that among ISM faculty members receiving lower "local rates" were 17 Americans, five Indian nationals, two British nationals, two Australians, two Canadians, two Chinese nationals, and one teacher each with Belgian, Burmese, French, German, Japanese, Malaysian, New Zealander, and Spanish nationalities.

"The acting Secretary of Labor found that these non-Filipino local hires received the same benefits as the Filipino local hires," the Supreme Court said in its 2000 decision. "The compensation package given to local hires has been shown to apply to all, regardless of race."

The labor department, however, will have none of these arguments.

In a telephone interview, Labor Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said that her office was merely implementing the law as interpreted by the Supreme Court in its earlier rulings.

More importantly, Sto. Tomas has the law on her side. She cited provisions of the Labor Code that set the rights of workers high above the interests of other parties—including third parties like creditor-banks which reportedly have a lien on ISM's facilities at the Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

"Under the Labor Code, the claims of laborers will always hold precedence," she said. "Workers always have first claim over the assets."

Standing on shaky legal group, and with its back pushed against the wall, ISM is now suing for peace with union members in an effort to reach a compromise. Its supporters, meanwhile, are lobbying with policymakers and the public for more sympathy.

With only four days to go before its buildings are put on the auction block, the efforts of ISM and its backers may have come a bit too late.

(To be continued)

GOVERNMENT SERVICE INSURANCE SYSTEM
Financial Center, Pasay City, Metro Manila 1308

Section I: Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
Republic of the Philippines
PRINTING OF 2006 GSIS DAILY MINDER

1. The Government Service Insurance System, through the approved Corporate Budget (Public Affairs – PR and Advertisement) for CY 2005, intends to apply the sum of **NINE HUNDRED EIGHTY SEVEN THOUSAND THREE HUNDRED AND FIFTY PESOS (P987,350.00)** being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the **PRINTING OF THE 2006 GSIS MINDER.** Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.
2. The Government Service Insurance System now invites sealed Bids from eligible Bidders for the **PRINTING OF THE 2006 GSIS DAILY MINDER.** Delivery of Daily Minder is required by **October 31, 2005.** The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section C of the Bidding Documents, Instructions to Bidders (ITB).
3. Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act No. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act, and is restricted to organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, as specified in Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section II of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the lowest calculated bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine his responsiveness to the technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during the post-qualification procedure.
4. Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from **8:00 am to 5:00 pm.**
5. A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of **P5,000.00.** The method of payment will be **CASH.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.
6. The GSIS Physical Resources Bids and Awards Committee (PRBAC) will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on **September 9, 2005 at 10:00 a.m.** at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level 1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.
7. Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the address below on or before **September 22, 2005 between 9:00 - 9:30 am.** All bids must be accompanied by a Bid Security in any of the following forms:

FORM OF BID SECURITY	Minimum Amount in % of Approved Budget for the Contract of Bid
Cash, Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check	One Percent (1%) (Php 9,873.50)
Surety Bond	Two and a half Percent (2½%) (Php 24,683.75)

and in the amount at least equal to, and not lower than, a percentage of the Approved Budget for the Contract to be bid, or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late bids shall not be accepted.

8. Bid opening shall be on **September 22, 2005 at the PRS Lounge, Core C, Level -1, GSIS Headquarters Building, Financial Center, Pasay City.** Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who choose to attend at the address below.
9. The GSIS reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, and to annul the bidding process and reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Enriqueta P. Disuanco
Executive Vice President and
Chairperson, PRBAC
Name of Officer
Government Service Insurance System
Name of Office
Financial Center, Pasay City
Postal/Street Address
891-63-71
Telefax Number

(Sgd.) ENRIQUETA P. DISUANCO
Exec. Vice Pres. & Chairperson
PRBAC

(PDI - September 1 & 8, 2005)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of August 31, 2005)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	31.5	32	31.5	31.5	54,700
Bank of the Phil. Islands	53	53.5	53	53.5	317,600
China Banking Corp.	820	820	820	820	50
Citystate Savings Bank	17.5	17.5	17.5	17.5	400
Export and Ind. Bank Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	320,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	51	51.5	51	51.5	21,900
International Exch. Bank	18.5	18.75	18.5	18.75	3,500
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	28	28	27	28	528,200
Philippine National Bank	38	38	38	38	200
Phil. Savings Bank	33	33	33	33	10,100
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	14.5	14.75	14.5	14.75	22,500
Security Bank Corp.	30	30.5	30	30.5	35,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	30	30	30	30	3,000
FINANCIAL SERVICES					
Phil. Stock Exchange Inc.	145	145	145	145	10
Sun Life Financial Inc.	2030	2045	2030	2045	2,070
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	13	13.25	13	13.25	8,900
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	1	1	0.99	1	1,505,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	730	730	720	720	11,860
Ipeople Inc.	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.9	164,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.046	0.046	1,100,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	0.0525	9,800,000
Manila Bulletin Pub. Corp.	1.8	1.8	1.8	1.8	19,000
Pilipino Tel. Corp.	3.05	3.05	2.95	2.95	1,273,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	1585	1595	1580	1590	117,430
Philweb Corp.	0.017	0.017	0.016	0.017	34,500,000
POWER, ENERGY & OTHER UTILITIES					
Manila Electric Co. A	14.25	14.25	14	14	9,300
Manila Electric Co. B	22.75	22.75	22.5	22.75	700,400
Manila Water Co. Inc.	6.3	6.3	6.2	6.2	4,573,000
Petron Corp.	3.2	3.25	3.2	3.25	589,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	150,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.68	1.7	1.68	1.7	650,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	8.1	8.1	8.1	8.1	143,000
Lorenzo Shipping Corp.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	28,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	50,000
Holcim Philippines Inc.	3	3	2.95	2.95	324,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	48,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	18,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	3.75	3.75	3.75	3.75	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	32.5	33	32.5	33	130,400
Pancake House Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1,000
San Miguel Corp. A	66	66.5	66	66.5	76,300
San Miguel Corp. B	96	96	93.5	94.5	678,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	880,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.0075	0.008	0.0075	0.008	21,000,000
Ayala Corp.	297.5	297.5	292.5	295	52,790
Abovitiz Equity Ventures	4.95	4.95	4.9	4.95	6,000
A. Soriano Corp.	2.08	2.1	2.08	2.1	1,000,000
APC Group Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	710,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.66	0.72	0.66	0.71	4,900,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs	0.5	0.61	0.5	0.61	20,000
Bacnotan Cons Indus Inc.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	24,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.12	0.145	0.12	0.14	1,950,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	1.08	1.08	1.06	1.06	2,321,000
A Brown Co. Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	20,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.25	0.26	0.25	0.26	5,510,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.245	0.245	0.24	0.24	2,000,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	2.95	2.95	2.95	2.95	209,000
Ever-Gotesco Resources	0.029	0.029	0.029	0.029	200,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.1	1.12	1.1	1.12	214,000
Fil-Hispano Holdings Corp.	5.6	6	5.6	6	2,190,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	42.5	43	41.5	42	272,500
Global Business Hldgs Inc.	55	55	55	55	100
House of Investments Inc.	0.9	0.9	0.9	0.9	20,000
Ionics Inc.	1.06	1.06	1.06	1.06	41,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.5	3.4	3.5	263,000
Marsteel Cons. Inc. B	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	12,700,000
Megaworld Corp.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.36	564,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.26	0.26	0.26	0.26	30,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	14,580,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	40,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.53	0.53	0.53	0.53	100,000
SM Investments Corp.	207	208	205	206	198,310
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.16	0.16	0.16	0.16	350,000
Wellex Industries Inc.	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	50,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.205	0.205	0.205	0.205	270,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Mabuhay Vinyl Corp.	0.69	0.69	0.69	0.69	10,000
Panasonic Mfg Phil Corp.	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2	18,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICES					
Belle Corp.	0.93	0.94	0.91	0.91	13,320,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	1.5	1.54	1.5	1.54	2,595,000
Manila Jockey Club	3	3	3	3	20,000
Premiere Ent. Prod. Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	180,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp.(Pdr)	13.25	13.5	13.25	13.5	251,800
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series S	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	1,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	3,100
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	5,900
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	560	560	560	560	730
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	8.4	8.4	8.1	8.1	4,735,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	60,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	760,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	2,300,000
EIB Realty Developers Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	200,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	70,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	1.36	1.36	1.34	1.34	5,096,000
Gotesco Land Inc. B	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	500,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2.26	2.26	2.26	2.26	10,000
Mrc Allied Ind. Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	600,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	4.05	4.05	4	4	15,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.165	0.165	0.165	0.165	1,110,000
SM Development Corp.	1.48	1.48	1.4	1.4	13,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	7.2	7.2	7	7.1	8,812,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.008	0.008	0.008	0.008	51,000,000
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't	7	7	6.8	6.8	889,000
Benguet Corp. A	8.8	8.8	8.6	8.6	68,000
Benguet Corp. B	25	25	22	22	9,100
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.35	0.35	0.34	0.35	6,940,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	9,050,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.016	0.017	0.016	0.017	368,400,000
Manila Mining Corp. B	0.022	0.024	0.022	0.023	137,800,000
Omico Corp.	0.006	0.006	0.006	0.006	15,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.85	0.86	0.84	0.86	1,160,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	1.04	1.04	1	1.02	2,252,000
Semirara Mining Corp.	27.5	27.5	27.5	27.5	36,400
United Paragon Mining Co.	0.35	0.36	0.35	0.35	1,090,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	3,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	0.0075	218,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.008	0.0085	0.008	0.008	46,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. A	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	150,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	10,000
Pacifica	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	1,000,000
Petroenergy Res. Corp.	3.45	3.45	3.45	3.45	45,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.135	0.135	0.135	0.135	510,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.41	0.43	0.41	0.43	810,000

DISCLOSURES

FAIRMONT Holdings, Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Oct. 25, 9 a.m. at the Richmonde Hotel, 21 San Miguel Ave. corner Lourdes St., Ortigas Center, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Sept. 15 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

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LEISURE and Resorts World Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Sept. 30, 2 p.m. at 3/F New York Room, Astoria Plaza Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City. Stockholders of record as of Aug. 31 are entitled to notice and vote at the meeting.

***

CASHROUNDS, Inc. disclosed that a total of 9,333,333 shares of stock of the company were sold by Amalgamated Investment Bancorporation to Gamboa Holdings, Inc., through the Exchange via a block sale, for a purchase price of P3.95 per share. ***Compiled by: Erika A. Sarmiento, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

August 31, 2005 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.817996	1.000000	56.1600
Japan	Yen	0.007354	0.008990	0.5049
United Kingdom	Pound	1.461431	1.786600	100.3355
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.105260	0.128680	7.2267
Switzerland	Franc	0.644853	0.788333	44.2728
Canada	Dollar	0.686526	0.839278	47.1339
Singapore	Dollar	0.485804	0.593895	33.3531
Australia	Dollar	0.611677	0.747775	41.9950
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.169923	2.652731	148.9774
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.218120	0.266652	14.9752
Brunei	Dollar	0.484365	0.592136	33.2544
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000079	0.000097	0.0054
Thailand	Baht	0.019791	0.024195	1.3588
UAE	Dirham	0.222735	0.272294	15.2920
Euro	Euro	1.000000	1.222500	68.6556
Argentina	Peso	0.281099	0.343643	19.2990
Brazil	Real	0.343062	0.419393	23.5531
Denmark	Kroner	0.134097	0.163934	9.2065
India	Rupee	0.018604	0.022743	1.2772
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.216888	0.265146	14.8906
Mexico	New Peso	0.075593	0.092413	5.1899
New Zealand	Dollar	0.563126	0.688421	38.6617
Norway	Kroner	0.126478	0.154619	8.6834
Pakistan	Rupee	0.013709	0.016759	0.9412
South Africa	Rand	0.125411	0.153315	8.6102
Korea	Won	0.000791	0.000967	0.0543
Sweden	Kroner	0.106987	0.130791	7.3452
Syria	Pound	0.015758	0.019264	1.0819
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.025081	0.030661	1.7219
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000381	0.000466	0.0262

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
Tripartite Voluntary Arbitration Advisory Council
NATIONAL CONCILIATION AND MEDIATION BOARD
MANILA

REVISED PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES IN THE CONDUCT OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS

Pursuant to the mandate of the National Conciliation and Mediation Board under Executive Order No. 126, as amended by Executive Order No. 251, and in order to implement Articles 260-262 (b) of the Labor Code, as amended by RA 6715 and Department Order No. 40-03, the following guidelines governing proceedings before a voluntary arbitrator are hereby adopted and promulgated:

Rule I
TITLE AND CONSTRUCTION

Section 1. Title. These guidelines shall be known as the NCMB Revised Procedural Guidelines in the Conduct of Voluntary Arbitration Proceedings.

Section 2. Construction. These guidelines shall be liberally construed to carry out the objectives of the Labor Code of the Philippines, as amended, to promote voluntary arbitration as a preferred mode of labor or industrial dispute settlement and as an integral component of the collective bargaining process.

Section 3. *Directory and Supplatory Application of the Guidelines and Rules of the Court.* The rules governing the proceedings before a voluntary arbitrator shall be the subject of agreement among the parties to a labor dispute and their chosen arbitrator. In the absence of agreement on any or various aspects of the voluntary arbitration proceedings, the pertinent provisions of these Guidelines and the Revised Rules of Court shall apply by analogy or in a directory or supplatory character and effect.

Rule II
DEFINITION OF TERMS

Section 1. *Definition of Terms.* –

(a) "*Board*" – refers to the National Conciliation and Mediation Board AND ITS REGIONAL BRANCHES created under Executive Order No. 126, as amended.

(b) "*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*" – refers to the head of the Board.

(c) "*Regional Branch*" – refers to any of the Regional Branches of the Board.

(d) "*Voluntary Arbitration*" – refers to the mode of settling labor-management disputes by which the parties select a competent, trained and impartial third person who shall decide on the merits of the case and whose decision is final AND executory.

(e) "*Voluntary Arbitrator*" – refers to any person who has been accredited by the Board as such, or any person named or designated in the collective bargaining agreement by the parties as their voluntary arbitrator, or one chosen BY THE PARTIES with OR WITHOUT the assistance of the BOARD, pursuant to a selection procedure agreed upon in the CBA OR ONE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD IN CASE EITHER OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBA REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION. THE TERM INCLUDES PANEL OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATORS.

1) *PERMANENT ARBITRATOR* – THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SPECIFICALLY NAMED OR DESIGNATED IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT BY THE PARTIES AS THEIR VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR

2) *AD-HOC ARBITRATOR* – THE *VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR CHOSEN BY THE PARTIES* IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES IN THE CBA OR THE *ONE APPOINTED BY THE BOARD* IN CASE THERE IS FAILURE IN THE SELECTION OR IN CASE EITHER OF THE PARTIES TO THE CBA REFUSES TO SUBMIT TO VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION.

(f) "*Collective Bargaining Agreement*" – CBA for short, refers to the contract between a duly recognized or certified exclusive bargaining agent of workers and the employer concerning wages, hours of work and all other terms and conditions of employment in the appropriate bargaining UNIT.

(g) "*Grievance*" – is a complaint arising from the interpretation or implementation of the collective bargaining agreement (CBA) and those arising from interpretation or enforcement of COMPANY RULES AND REGULATIONS, personnel policies, AND ESTABLISHED PRACTICES, OR SUCH OTHER CONTROVERSY INVOLVING EMPLOYER-EMPLOYEE RELATIONSHIP.

(h) "*Grievance Procedure*" – refers to the system of grievance settlement as provided FOR in the collective bargaining agreement. It usually consists of successive steps starting at the level of complainant and his immediate supervisor and ending, when necessary, at VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION.

(i) "*SUBMISSION AGREEMENT*" – REFERS TO A WRITTEN AGREEMENT BY THE PARTIES SUBMITTING THEIR CASE FOR ARBITRATION CONTAINING THE ISSUES, THE CHOSEN ARBITRATOR AND STIPULATION TO ABIDE BY AND COMPLY WITH THE RESOLUTION INCLUDING THE COST OF ARBITRATION.

(j) "*NOTICE TO ARBITRATE*" – REFERS TO A FORMAL DEMAND MADE BY ONE PARTY TO THE OTHER FOR THE ARBITRATION OF A PARTICULAR DISPUTE IN CASE OF REFUSAL OF ONE PARTY IN A CBA TO SUBMIT TO ARBITRATION.

(k) "*ARBITRATION CLAUSE*" – IS A PROVISION IN THE COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT (CBA) REQUIRING THAT GRIEVANCES, IF UNSETTLED, SHALL BE FINALLY RESOLVED BY A VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR.

(l) "*WAGE DISTORTION*" – MEANS A SITUATION WHERE AN INCREASE IN PRESCRIBED WAGE RATES RESULTS IN THE ELIMINATION OR SEVERE CONTRACTION OF INTENTIONAL QUANTITATIVE DIFFERENCES IN WAGE OR SALARY RATES BETWEEN AND AMONG EMPLOYEE GROUPS IN AN ESTABLISHMENT AS TO EFFECTIVELY OBLITERATE THE DISTINCTIONS EMBODIED IN SUCH WAGE STRUCTURE BASED ON SKILLS, LENGTH OF SERVICE, OR OTHER LOGICAL BASES OF DIFFERENTIATION.

(m) "*PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS*" – REFERS TO A FORMAL AGREEMENT VOLUNTARILY ESTABLISHED BY THE LABOR-MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE CONTAINING A PRODUCTIVITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM THAT WILL PROMOTE GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT, IMPROVE WORKING CONDITIONS, MAINTAIN INDUSTRIAL PEACE AND RESULT IN INCREASED PRODUCTIVITY, INCLUDING COST SAVINGS, AS WELL AS A PRODUCTIVITY GAINSHARING PROGRAM WHEREBY THE EMPLOYEES ARE GRANTED PRODUCTIVITY BONUSES.

Rule III
PLEADINGS AND APPEARANCE

Section 1. *Caption and Title.* In all cases submitted to a voluntary arbitrator by the parties, the aggrieved party shall be called "Complainant," and the opposing party, the "Respondent."
The full names of the parties, as far as they are known, shall be stated in the original caption of the original pleading, award or decision and in all summons, notices and processes to be served upon them. The caption shall be as follows:

Republic of the Philippines
Office of the Voluntary Arbitrator
NAME OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR & BUSINESS ADDRESS

IN RE: Voluntary Arbitration Between — CASE NO. xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Complainant

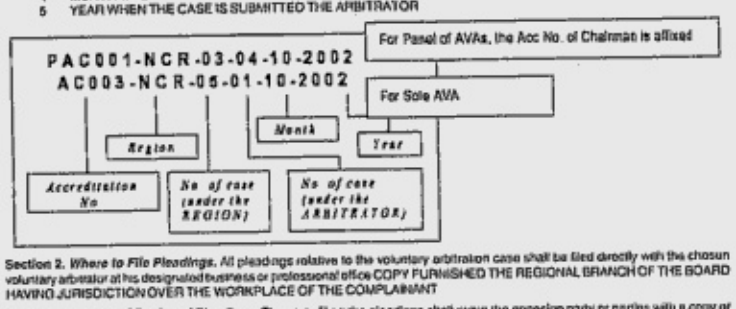
-and-

Respondent

Issues Involved
xxxxxxxx

IN ORDER TO SYSTEMATIZE MONITORING OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION CASES, THE ADOPTION OF A STANDARDIZED NUMBERING SYSTEM OF CASES SHALL BE USED. THE DOCKET OF THE INDIVIDUAL ACCREDITED VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION CASES SHALL INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1 ACCREDITATION NUMBER
2 REGION WHERE THE CASE ORIGINATES
3 NUMBER OF CASE SUBJECT OF ARBITRATION
4 MONTH WHEN THE CASE IS SUBMITTED TO THE ARBITRATOR
5 YEAR WHEN THE CASE IS SUBMITTED THE ARBITRATOR



Section 2. *Where to File Pleadings.* All pleadings relative to the voluntary arbitration case shall be filed directly with the chosen voluntary arbitrator at his designated business or professional office COPY FURNISHED THE REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE BOARD HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE WORKPLACE OF THE COMPLAINANT.

Section 3. *Service of Copies of Pleadings.* The party filing the pleadings shall serve the opposing party or parties with a copy or copies thereof in the manner provided for in these Guidelines.

Section 4. *Service of Pleadings, Notices and Awards.* – Copies of pleadings, notices or copies of award may be served through personal service or by registered mail on the parties to the dispute, provided, that where a party is represented by counsel or authorized representative, service will be made on the latter. Service by registered mail is complete upon receipt by the addressee or his agents.

Section 5. *Representations.* – The parties may personally appear in their own behalf or by representatives. In the latter case, the representative must be duly authorized to appear in writing or he can be practicing attorney-at-law.
The complete name and office address or any change in the address of counsel/representative shall be made of record and the party should be properly informed.

Section 6. *Limitation on Authority to Bind Party.* – Attorneys and other representatives of parties shall be presumed to have the full authority to bind their clients or principals in all matters of procedure, but they cannot, without a special power of attorney or expressed consent, enter into a compromise agreement with the opposing party in full or partial discharge of a client's or principal's claim.

Rule IV
JURISDICTION OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR

SECTION 1. *Exclusive and Original Jurisdiction.* The voluntary arbitrator shall have exclusive and original jurisdiction over the following cases:

1) All unresolved grievances arising from the interpretation or implementation of the collective bargaining agreement.
2) All unresolved grievances arising from the implementation or enforcement of company personnel policies.
3) ALL WAGE DISTORTION ISSUES ARISING FROM THE APPLICATION OF ANY WAGE ORDERS IN ORGANIZED ESTABLISHMENTS.
4) ALL UNRESOLVED GRIEVANCES ARISING FROM THE INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PRODUCTIVITY INCENTIVE PROGRAMS UNDER RA 6971.

For this purpose, all grievances which are not settled or resolved within seven (7) calendar days from the date of the submission for resolution to the last step of the grievance machinery shall automatically be referred to voluntary arbitration prescribed in the collective bargaining agreement.

Cases falling with in the exclusive and original jurisdiction of voluntary arbitrators but filed either with the National Labor Relations Commission and its Regional Branches, or the Regional Directors of the Department of Labor and Employment or with the Board and its Branches, shall be decided by the voluntary arbitrator upon referral of said cases pursuant to paragraph 2, Article 261 of the Labor Code, as amended by RA 6715 AND DEPARTMENT ORDER NO. 40-03.

SECTION 2. *CONCURRENT JURISDICTION.* The voluntary arbitrator upon agreement of the parties, shall also hear and decide all other labor disputes including unfair labor practice and bargaining deadlocks. Before or at any stage of the compulsory arbitration process, parties to a labor dispute may agree to submit the case to voluntary arbitration.

SECTION 3. *NUMBER OF ARBITRATORS.* IF THE CBA DOES NOT SPECIFY THE NUMBER OF ARBITRATORS, THE CASE SHALL BE HEARD AND RESOLVED BY A SOLE ARBITRATOR, UNLESS THE PARTIES AGREE OTHERWISE.

SECTION 4. *WHEN JURISDICTION IS EXERCISED.* The voluntary arbitrator shall exercise jurisdiction over specific cases:

1) Upon receipt of a Submission Agreement duly signed by both parties
2) UPON RECEIPT OF THE NOTICE TO ARBITRATE WHEN THERE IS REFUSAL FROM ONE PARTY;
3) UPON RECEIPT OF AN APPOINTMENT/DESIGNATION AS VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR BY THE BOARD IN EITHER OF THE FOLLOWING CIRCUMSTANCES:
   3.1 IN THE EVENT THAT PARTIES FAIL TO SELECT AN ARBITRATOR; OR
   3.2. IN THE ABSENCE OF A NAMED ARBITRATOR IN THE CBA AND THE PARTY UPON WHOM THE NOTICE TO ARBITRATE IS SERVED DOES NOT FAVORABLY REPLY WITHIN SEVEN DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF SUCH NOTICE.

SECTION 5. *CONTENTS OF SUBMISSION AGREEMENT.* The SUBMISSION Agreement shall contain, among others, the following:

1. THE agreement to submit to arbitration;
2. THE specific issue/s to be ARBITRATED;
3. THE name of the arbitrator;
4. THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE PARTIES;
5. THE agreement to perform or abide by the decision.

SECTION 6. *SUBMISSION TO ARBITRATION THROUGH NOTICE TO ARBITRATE.* AFTER EXHAUSTION OF THE GRIEVANCE PROCEDURE BUT THE GRIEVANCE REMAINS UNRESOLVED AND THERE IS REFUSAL FROM ONE PARTY TO SUBMIT TO VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION, THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE OBSERVED:

1) A NOTICE TO ARBITRATE SHALL BE SERVED UPON THE UNWILLING PARTY, COPY FURNISHED THE PERMANENT ARBITRATOR AND THE NCMB REGIONAL BRANCH HAVING JURISDICTION OVER THE WORKPLACE.
2) UPON RECEIPT OF A NOTICE TO ARBITRATE AFTER THE LAPSE OF THE SEVENTH-DAY PERIOD WITHIN WHICH TO RESPOND, THE PERMANENT ARBITRATOR/S SHALL IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS.
3) IN THE ABSENCE OF A PERMANENT ARBITRATOR IN THE CBA, THE BOARD APPOINTS A VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR WHO SHALL IMMEDIATELY COMMENCE ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS UPON RECEIPT OF SUCH APPOINTMENT.

SECTION 7. *CONTENTS OF A NOTICE TO ARBITRATE. THE NOTICE SHALL CONTAIN, AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING:*

1. THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE PARTY UPON WHOM THE NOTICE IS MADE,
2. THE ARBITRATION CLAUSE OF THE CBA,
3. THE SPECIFIC ISSUE/S OR DISPUTE/S TO BE ARBITRATED;
4. THE RELIEF SOUGHT.
5. THE NAME, ADDRESS AND CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE INITIATING PARTY REQUESTING ARBITRATION.

SECTION 8. CONTENTS OF AN APPOINTMENT FROM THE BOARD. THE APPOINTMENT FROM THE BOARD SHALL CONTAIN, AMONG OTHERS, THE FOLLOWING:

1. THE NAME OF THE ARBITRATOR;
2. THE NAMES, ADDRESSES AND CONTACT NUMBERS OF THE PARTIES;
3. THE ISSUES TO BE ARBITRATED;
4. THE BASIS OF APPOINTMENT;
5. THE ARBITRATOR'S FEE
6. THE SIGNATURE OF APPOINTING NCMB DIRECTOR.

Rule V
POWERS AND DUTIES OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR

SECTION 1. DUTY TO CONCILIATE AND MEDIATE. The voluntary arbitrator SHALL EXERT BEST EFFORTS to conciliate or mediate to aid the parties in reaching a voluntary settlement of the dispute, before proceeding with arbitration.

SECTION 2. *DUTY TO ENCOURAGE THE PARTIES TO ENTER INTO STIPULATION OF FACTS.* TO FACILITATE SPEEDY DISPOSITION OF CASES, IN CASE THE PARTIES FAILED TO REACH A VOLUNTARY SETTLEMENT OF THE DISPUTE, THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL ENCOURAGE THE PARTIES TO ENTER INTO STIPULATION OF FACTS, WHICH SHALL BE REDUCED IN WRITING, SIGNED BY THE PARTIES, AND SHALL FORM PART OF THE RECORDS OF THE CASE.

SECTION 3. *POWERS.* The voluntary arbitrator shall have the FOLLOWING powers to:

1) Require any person to attend hearing/s;
2) Subpoena witnesses and RECEIVE documents when the relevancy of the testimony and the materiality thereof has been demonstrated to the arbitrator;
3) TAKE WHATEVER ACTION IS NECESSARY TO RESOLVE THE ISSUE/S SUBJECT OF THE DISPUTE;
4) ISSUE A WRIT OF EXECUTION TO ENFORCE FINAL DECISIONS AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, IT SHALL BE HIS DUTY TO:
   4.1 SEE TO IT THAT HIS/HER DECISION IS FULLY SATISFIED;
   4.2 INQUIRE INTO THE CORRECTNESS OF THE EXECUTION OF HIS/HER FINAL DECISION;
   4.3 CONSIDER WHATEVER SUPERVENING EVENT THAT MAY TRANSPIRE DURING SUCH EXECUTION;
   4.4 DETERMINE EVERY QUESTION OF FACT AND LAW WHICH MAY BE INVOLVED IN THE EXECUTION.

Rule VI
PROCEEDINGS BEFORE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR

SECTION 1. NATURE OF PROCEEDINGS. The proceedings before a voluntary arbitrator are non-litigious in nature. They are not governed by technical rules applicable to court or judicial proceedings, but they must, at all times, comply with the requirements of due process.

SECTION 2. SETTING OF INITIAL CONFERENCE; NOTICE TO PARTIES. Within two (2) days from receipt of the Submission Agreement, NOTICE TO ARBITRATE OR APPOINTMENT, the voluntary arbitrator shall set the date, time and place of the initial conference with due notice to the parties.

SECTION 3. INITIAL CONFERENCE. During the INITIAL conference, the parties shall be encouraged to explore all possible means of effecting a settlement of the dispute. Should the parties arrive at any agreement as to the whole or any part of the dispute, the same shall be reduced in writing and signed by the parties before the voluntary arbitrator AND IT SHALL FORM PART OF THE DECISION.

SECTION 4. *STIPULATION OF FACTS.* In the absence of any settlement, the voluntary arbitrator shall REQUIRE THE PARTIES TO STIPULATE FACTS WHICH ARE NO LONGER DISPUTABLE, LEAVING THE PRESENTATION AND EXAMINATION OF EVIDENCE, AND ONLY TO SUCH FACTS THAT ARE STILL IN DISPUTE.

SECTION 5. SIMPLIFICATION OF ARBITRABLE ISSUES. The arbitrator must see to it that he understands clearly the issue/s submitted to arbitration. If, after conferring with the parties, he finds the necessity to clarify/simplify the issues, he shall assist the parties in the reformulation of the same.

SECTION 6. *FORMULATION OF GROUND RULES.* THE PARTIES AND THE ARBITRATOR SHALL JOINTLY FORMULATE AND ADOPT THE GROUND RULES ON THE FOLLOWING:

1) SCHEDULE AND FREQUENCY OF CONFERENCES
2) RULES ON POSTPONEMENTS
3) PERIOD AND MANNER OF SUBMISSION OF POSITION PAPERS AND OTHER PLEADINGS
4) DETERMINATION FOR THE NECESSITY OF CONDUCTING CLARIFICATORY CONFERENCE
5) PERIOD TO DECIDE THE CASE
6) COST OF ARBITRATION

SECTION 7. *EFFECT OF NON-APPEARANCE.* IN CASE OF NON-APPEARANCE OF EITHER PARTIES FOR TWO CONSECUTIVE CONFERENCES, DESPITE DUE NOTICE, THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL TERMINATE THE CONFERENCE AND ISSUE AN ORDER REQUIRING THE PARTIES TO SUBMIT THEIR RESPECTIVE POSITION PAPERS WITHIN 10 CALENDAR DAYS FROM RECEIPT OF THE SAID ORDER; OTHERWISE, THE CASE WILL BE DEEMED SUBMITTED FOR DECISION BASED ON AVAILABLE RECORDS ON FILE.

SECTION 8. *SUBMISSION OF POSITION PAPERS AND OTHER PLEADINGS.* THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL DIRECT PARTIES TO SUBMIT VERIFIED POSITION PAPERS AND OTHER PLEADINGS ON THE DATES AGREED UPON DURING THE INITIAL CONFERENCE. THESE POSITION PAPERS SHALL COVER ONLY ISSUES AND CAUSES OF ACTION RAISED IN THE SUBMISSION AGREEMENT, NOTICE TO ARBITRATE OR APPOINTMENTS OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR/S, AND STIPULATION OF FACTS, AS SIMPLIFIED AND CLARIFIED DURING THE INITIAL CONFERENCE. THESE SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY SUPPORTING EVIDENCE, IF ANY, INCLUDING AFFIDAVITS OF WITNESSES WHICH SHALL TAKE THE FORM OF DIRECT TESTIMONIES.

SECTION 9. *DETERMINATION FOR THE NECESSITY OF A CLARIFICATORY CONFERENCE INCLUDING CONDUCT OF OCULAR INSPECTIONS.* IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SUBMISSION OF THE POSITION PAPERS AND OTHER PLEADINGS, THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL DETERMINE THE NEED FOR HOLDING A CLARIFICATORY CONFERENCE OR OCULAR INSPECTION, IN WHICH CASE, THE PARTIES SHALL BE DULY NOTIFIED.

SECTION 10. RECORDING. THE PROCEEDINGS BEFORE A VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR NEED NOT BE RECORDED, PROVIDED HOWEVER, THAT THE ARBITRATOR/S, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE PARTIES, SHOULD MAKE A WRITTEN SUMMARY OF THE PROCEEDINGS, INCLUDING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE EVIDENCE PRESENTED. SHOULD THE PARTIES REQUEST for the taking of record of proceedings and the testimony of witnesses, SUCH REQUEST SHALL BE ARRANGED BY THE ARBITRATOR and payment of the cost thereof is assumed by such requesting party or parties.

SECTION 11. ATTENDANCE OF PERSONS. Persons having a direct interest in the subject of arbitration shall have the right to attend any CONFERENCE, but the attendance of any other person shall be at the discretion of the arbitrator.

SECTION 12. ARBITRATION CONFERENCE. In the conduct of CONFERENCE, the arbitrator shall provide the parties adequate opportunities to be heard. He shall control the proceedings and see to it that proper decorum is observed. He must render a ruling of the issue/s raised in the course of the proceedings. He must treat all significant aspects of the proceedings as confidential in nature unless confidentiality is waived by the parties.

Rule VII
DECISIONS

SECTION 1. DECISION. The final arbitral disposition of issue/s submitted to voluntary arbitration is the Decision, WHICH may take the form of a dismissal of a claim or grant of specific remedy, either by way of prohibition of particular acts or specific performance of particular acts.

SECTION 2. PERIOD TO RENDER DECISION. The decision of voluntary arbitrator must be rendered within the PERIOD AGREED UPON by the parties AND THE ARBITRATOR DURING THE INITIAL CONFERENCE but in no case to exceed twenty (20) calendar days from submission of the case FOR DECISION.

SECTION 3. SANCTION FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THE PERIOD TO DECIDE. FAILURE ON THE PART OF THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR TO RENDER A DECISION, WITHIN THE AGREED OR PRESCRIBED PERIOD, WITHOUT JUSTIFIABLE CAUSE OR REASON, SHALL UPON A VERIFIED COMPLAINT OF A PARTY TO THE CASE, BE SUFFICIENT GROUND FOR THE BOARD TO DISCIPLINE SAID VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR/S, PURSUANT TO THE GUIDELINES ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY.
IN CASE OF DE-LISTING, THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL, WITHIN TEN (10) CALENDAR DAYS FROM DEMAND, TURN OVER THE RECORDS OF THE CASE TO THE BOARD FOR FURTHER DISPOSITION.

SECTION 4. FULL AND COMPLETE SETTLEMENT DURING ARBITRATION. In the event that the parties FINALLY settle their dispute DURING THE PENDENCY OF THE ARBITRATION PROCEEDINGS, THE TERMS OF SETTLEMENT SHALL BE REDUCED INTO WRITING AND SHALL BE ADOPTED AS THE DECISION OF the arbitrator.

SECTION 5. BASIS OF THE DECISION. The DECISION must state in clear, concise and definite terms the facts and the LAW upon which it was BASED.
In case the DECISION of the voluntary arbitrator INVOLVES MONETARY AWARD, the amount granted and the formula used in the computation if any, SHALL BE SPECIFIED.

SECTION 6. FINALITY OF DECISION. THE decision of THE voluntary arbitrator SHALL BE final and executory after ten (10) calendar days from receipt of the copy of the decision by the parties.

SECTION 7. MOTIONS FOR RECONSIDERATION. THE DECISION OF THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR IS NOT SUBJECT OF A MOTION FOR RECONSIDERATION.

SECTION 8. COMPLIANCE WITH DECISION. Both parties shall comply voluntarily and faithfully with the DECISION.

RULE VIII
EXECUTION PROCEEDINGS

SECTION 1. *ENFORCEMENT OF DECISION.* In instances of non-compliance by either or both parties, a motion to enforce/execute the award may be filed with the voluntary arbitrator who may issue a writ of execution requiring either the sheriff of the National Labor Relations Commission or the regular courts or any public official whom the parties may designate in the submission agreement, to execute the final decision.
In the absence of the voluntary arbitrator or in case of his incapacity, the motion shall be filed with the Labor Arbiter in the region having jurisdiction over the workplace. The filing of motion for the issuance of Writ of Execution is without prejudice to any other action the aggrieved party may take against the non-complying party such as a petition for contempt or imposition of fines and penalties.

SECTION 2. PRE-EXECUTION CONFERENCE. WITHIN TWO (2) WORKING DAYS FROM THE RECEIPT OF THE MOTION FOR THE ISSUANCE OF A WRIT OF EXECUTION, THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR OR IN CASE OF HIS INCAPACITY, THE LABOR ARBITER BEFORE WHOM THE MOTION IS FILED, SHALL SCHEDULE A PRE-EXECUTION CONFERENCE TO THRESH OUT MATTERS RELEVANT TO EXECUTION.

SECTION 3. ISSUANCE OF A WRIT. EXECUTION SHALL ISSUE UPON A DECISION THAT FINALLY DISPOSES OF THE ACTIONS OR PROCEEDINGS.

SECTION 4. ENFORCEMENT OF WRIT. THE SHERIFF OR OTHER AUTHORIZED OFFICER SHALL BE GUIDED BY THE NLRC MANUAL ON EXECUTION OF JUDGMENT, THE PROCEDURAL GUIDELINES IN THE EXECUTION OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATORS DECISION, THE MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT EXECUTED BETWEEN NLRC AND NCMB AND IN THE ABSENCE OF APPLICABLE RULES, THE REVISED RULES OF COURT, AS AMENDED.

SECTION 5. DESIGNATION OF SPECIAL SHERIFFS. ONLY THE SECRETARY OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT MAY DESIGNATE SPECIAL SHERIFFS TO ENSURE COMPLIANCE WITH THE DECISION OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATORS.

SECTION 6. EFFECT OF FILING OF PETITION FOR CERTIORARI ON EXECUTION. THE FILING OF A PETITION FOR CERTIORARI WITH THE COURT OF APPEALS OR THE SUPREME COURT SHALL NOT STAY THE EXECUTION OF THE ASSAILED DECISION UNLESS A TEMPORARY RESTRAINING ORDER OR INJUNCTION IS ISSUED BY THE COURT OF APPEALS OR THE SUPREME COURT PENDING RESOLUTION OF SUCH PETITION.

RULE IX
REPORTORIAL REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 1. MONITORING AND REPORTING REQUIREMENTS. IN CASE OF DIRECT SUBMISSION TO VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION, PARTIES SHALL SUBMIT COPY OF THE SUBMISSION AGREEMENT TO THE CONCERNED NCMB REGIONAL BRANCH. IN ANY CASE, THE PARTIES SHALL FURNISH THE CONCERNED REGIONAL BRANCH A COPY OF ALL PLEADINGS SUBMITTED. The voluntary arbitrator shall furnish the Regional Branch two (2) copies of the decision OR ORDERS immediately after the issuance thereof. The Regional Branch shall keep one copy for their file and shall transmit the other copy to the Central Office.

THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR SHALL ALSO SUBMIT A QUARTERLY Status Report of cases HANDLED to concerned Regional Branches UTILIZING NCMB VA FORM NO. 5 ON OR BEFORE THE 7TH DAY OF THE MONTH FOLLOWING THE END OF THE QUARTER. THE PERIOD OF REPORTING SHALL BE FROM THE date of acceptance OF THE CASE to the date of FULL AND COMPLETE SATISFACTION of THE decision.

SECTION 2. *MAINTENANCE OF CASE RECORDS.* THE REGIONAL BRANCH OF THE BOARD SHALL MAINTAIN RECORDS OF VOLUNTARY ARBITRATION CASES FALLING WITHIN THEIR AREA OF JURISDICTION.

THE ENTIRE RECORDS OF A CASE SHALL BE TURNED OVER BY THE VOLUNTARY ARBITRATOR/S TO THE CONCERNED REGIONAL BRANCH WITHIN TEN (10) DAYS UPON FULL AND COMPLETE SATISFACTION OF THE FINAL ARBITRATION DECISION.

Rule X
DATE OF EFFECTIVITY

Section 1. *EFFECTIVITY.* These Guidelines shall take effect 15 DAYS AFTER THEIR PUBLICATION IN ONE (1) NEWSPAPER OF GENERAL CIRCULATION.
SIGNED in the City of Manila, this 15TH day of OCTOBER 2004.

(SGD.) ROMEO A. YOUNG
Acting Chairman/Member

(SGD.) PERLITA B. VELASCO
Government Sector

(SGD.) ALLAN S. MONTAÑO
Member, Labor Sector

(SGD.) GASTON V. TAQUIO
Member, Labor Sector

(SGD.) BENJAMIN T. CO
Member, Employer Sector

(SGD.) ANANO G. BAGABALDO
Member, Employer Sector

APPROVED BY THE SECRETARY: 07 MARCH 2005

PATRICIA A. STO. TOMAS
Secretary

NOTE: Published at the Office of the National Administrative Register, U.P. Law Center, Diliman, Quezon City. January to March 2005 National Administrative Register, Vol. 15-1 and shall take effect on July 19, 2005.

(PDI - Sept. 1, 2005)

Government urged to issue foodstamps

FORMER Manila Councilor Cesar T. Lucero, Jr. said the threat of world-wide rising oil prices urged the national government to issue "foodstamps" for the poorest of the poor and discount food stamps for the fixed and low salaried employees. As the national government of energy conservation, it must also be concern on the poverty stricken majority of our population who will be hit hard by the oil price increase. Lucero has come up with a proposal for remedial welfare action to complement increases and allowance for city government workers by providing direct assistance to the city's more impoverished residents. Lucero has asked the government to consider a food-assistance program calling for the issuance of food stamps to indigent households whose earnings are below the minimum wage earners. It includes provisions of free school-lunch to school children of destitute families. In the priority list of essential items redeemable with food stamps would be enriched foods or those fortified nutritional value to provide the poor with a balanced diet, rice, milk, sugar, cooking oil and such essential nonfood products like detergents and bar of soap, Lucero said. The unsettling problem of hidden hunger among school children demands immediate and should be eliminated at whatever cost, Lucero emphasized, adding that medical reports point to a direct link between malnutrition and mental retardation.

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TKCP offers Directory of International Funding Organization

TRITIUM Knowledge Center Publishing (TKCP) is now selling its directory called the Directory of International Funding Organizations, Nonprofit Organizations, NGOs, Corporate Donors, and Relief Agencies.

Corporate organizations, NGOs, foundations, SMEs, LGUs, cooperatives, schools and universities, social and community organizations, government agencies and other organizations will benefit tremendously in using this resource directory when they seek funding or partners for their favorite community and social oriented projects or support for their initiatives and advocacies.

Many international funding organizations and nonprofit organizations support: HIV/AIDS mitigation and awareness; enterprise development; micro-finance; education; health; medical treatment; gender; women; culture; low cost appropriate technology; environment; book donation; ICT; infrastructure; culture; research; children; LGBT; youth; population and family planning; disaster preparedness; relief activities; and many others.

The Directory has over 1,000 selected entries of international organizations, close to 600 pages, softbound, and is sized at 8-1/2" x 11". It also includes international relief agencies that could help during calamities and natural disasters such as tsunamis, famine, cyclones, and earthquakes. All entries are up-to-date.

To get a copy, interested parties are advised to contact TKCP at Tel No: 531-0084; CP: 0919-229-9777; 0919-229-9780; and 0915-780-4379 or through its email at tkcp_ph@yahoo.com and tritium@pldtdsl.net

TKCP conducts regularly intensive Proposal Writing Seminars and accepts engagements in writing winning proposals for NGOs seeking funding. It is also distributing its Proposal Writing Guidebook, an important resource book for Proposal Writers who wish to submit winning proposals for funding and in-kind support from funding organizations.

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BULACAN

The Necrological Services with Islamic Prayers for

REAR ADMIRAL ROMULO M. ESPALDON

will be held at **The Heritage Park** Fort Bonifacio, Bayani Road, Taguig City at 6:00 p.m., this Friday, 2 September 2005 and ***not*** at Camp Aguinaldo

Mortuary and Crematory at The Heritage Park

Message of Thanks

We,

The bereaved family and relatives of

REYNALDO "Nardo" JAVATE DE LEON SR.

(1933 – 2005, Tikiw, San Antonio, Nueva Ecija)

who peacefully joined our Creator on August 21, 2005

wish to express our sincere appreciation to all of you, our friends, who sent flowers, mass cards, messages of sympathy, spend precious time with us, and showed in many ways your moral & spiritual support, love & care during our great time of sorrow.

THANK YOU

We lovingly remember
Our Beloved Mama on her
Forty Sixth Death Anniversary

EUFEMIA CRUZ VENTANILLA

of Cabanatuan City and Calumpit, Bulacan
who died on September 2, 1959

Holy Masses will be offered tomorrow at the following churches:

1.	**Saint Basil Church** *Brecksville, Ohio*	9:00 AM
2.	**Saint Nicholas Tolentine Cathedral** *Cabanatuan City*	All Masses
3.	**Our Lady of Fatima Parish** *Philamlife Homes, Las Piñas, Metro Manila*	All Masses
4.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Multinational Village, Parañaque, Metro Manila*	All Masses
5.	**Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary** *Rosario Complex, San Pedro, Laguna*	All Masses
6.	**Sto. Niño de Cebu Parish** *Biñan, Laguna*	All Masses
7.	**Parish of the Holy Sacrifice** *U.P. Campus, Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
8.	**Sta. Maria Della Strada Parish** *Katipunan Ave., Diliman, Quezon City*	All Masses
9.	**St. James the Great** *Alabang Village, Muntinlupa*	All Masses
10.	**St. Jerome Emiliani and Sta. Susana Parish** *Ayala Alabang Village*	All Masses
11.	**Mary Help of Christians Parish** *Better Living Subdivision, Parañaque*	All Masses
12.	**Immaculate Conception Parish** *Concepcion, Marikina City*	6:00 AM

Her surviving children: **Gloria, Oscar Jr.,** and **Rosalinda**; sons and daughters-in-law; and grandchildren, request relatives, friends, and pious readers to join them in praying for the eternal repose of her soul.

An obituary with a picture can be a fitting tribute to your departed loved one.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

1. Copy of Death Certificate
2. Any identification document (I.D.)

DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

MESSAGE OF THANKS

DEATH ANNIVERSARY

REQUIEMS

WE ACCEPT CREDIT CARDS and bank-to-bank payments

IDEAL WIFE & MOTHER

JOVITA URRUTIA FERNANDEZ

February 1, 1932 – August 31, 2005
Peacefully joined her Creator at the age of 73.

Her devotion to family is the gift that shall forever be etched in the hearts of all. She will be missed by her devoted husband **Lito**, children **Ferdie & Jane, Cecile & Rudolph, Gene & Sandra, Bunny & Ed,** and **Peter & Martha**; grandchildren **Tina, Norbie & Jolo, Sofia & Simona, Andreo & Audrey**; brothers and sisters, relatives, friends and loved ones.

They request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Funeraria Paz, Manila Memorial Park, Sucat Road, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, September 3, after the 9 A.M. Mass.

RAMON MONTAÑO MANEJA, JR.

Died peacefully in the Grace of our Lord on August 28, 2005 at the age of 59.

His remains lie in state at La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on September 3, 2005, Saturday at the Holy Cross Memorial Park, Quirino Highway, Novaliches, Quezon City after the 9:00 a.m. Mass at La Funeraria Paz.

In Memoriam

JUAN BOSCO ABELARDO LEDESMA

October 28, 1943 – September 1, 1985

Bosco's family requests that the reader perform a random act of kindness or charity in his memory and God's great glory.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."
(John 3:16)

Elysium Gardens Columbarium is ready for use

ELYSIUM Gardens Columbarium was conceived on the idea that memorialization should have that feeling of ease and proximity everytime we visit our departed loved ones. In this view, we have carefully selected the site, which is in the heart of Quezon City, just beside St. Luke's Hospital and Trinity College of Quezon City.

Our design is a modern/classical structure featuring Solarium Building, which houses indoor vaults. It features Australian teakwood sandstone cover, Italian travertine stones and glass that lets the natural sunlight pass thru. Garden Wall Vaults feature Italian Marbles and was designed in a way that follows the natural landscape of the place. Chapel was also constructed with indoor vaults and airconditioned family room, which can be used for memorial services.

Elysium Gardens Columbarium is now 85% completed and ready for use.

For more information please call at 723-64-94 / 723-76-51 / 414-25-59 and 410-53-98.

I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.
John 14:6

After a Life Well-Lived
Our Beloved Daddy

ATTY. ARTURO "Turing" MAMARIL DEL ROSARIO

FOUNDING PARTNER OF DEL ROSARIO & DEL ROSARIO LAW OFFICES
DISTINGUISHED MARITIME LAWYER
PAST PRESIDENT OF THE PHILIPPINE BAR ASSOCIATION
BAR TOPNOTCHER

Peacefully joined our Lord on
29 August 2005 at the age of 83.

His loving wife **Susan Libosada**, children **Ruben** & **Cora**, **Roselle** & **Joe Rebano**, **Johnny** & **Boots**, **Robert** & **Malin**, **Benny** & **Fely** and **Evita** & **Graeme McGuire**; grandchildren **Nikki** & **Jody**, **Arjay**, & **Joben**; **Jerby** & **Pam**, **Justin** & **Patty**, & **Ria**; **Aldrich** & **Carine**; **Mikel** & **Christine**, **Micah**, **Mark**, **Matthew** & **Martin**; **Chippy** & **Katrina**; & **Anthony** and great grandchildren **Jay**; **Chino**, **Alex** & **Jam**; and **Jojo**; brothers and sisters **Pepito** (†), **Helen**, **Ame**, **Junior**, **Sidring**, **Nena** and **Marietta**; brothers-in-law & sisters-in-law, nephews & nieces and other relatives request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul

He is now reunited with his first wife **Veronica Torralba (†).**

His remains lie in state at The Heritage Park, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City and will be laid to rest on 3 September 2005 (Saturday) there immediately after the 10:00 a.m. Mass

His family rejoices at his peaceful passing and give thanks that he is now in the loving embrace of our Heavenly Father

In lieu of flowers, we know that our Daddy would appreciate donations to the Sacred Heart Chapel at West Crame which he and Mommy built

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Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid
(RE-BID)

The DepED-Bids and Awards Committee (DepED-BAC) invites eligible bidders to apply for eligibility and to bid for the following packages:

Package No.	Goods	Approved Budget Per Package	Date/Time: Pre-Bid Conference	Date/Time: Submission deadline / Opening of Bids	Price of Bidding Documents (non-refundable)	End user
1	Printing, Packaging & Storing of Teacher's Test Booklets in Elementary & Secondary Science and Math	7,800,000.00	September 8, 2005 10:00 a.m.	September 20, 2005 10:00 a.m.	Php2,000.00	National Educational Testing & Research Center
2	Printing, Packaging & Delivery of Non-Classifieds Materials	200,000.00				
	Total	P8,000,000.00				

Bidders must bid for both packages. Bids received that do not bid for both packages, and exceed the ABC per package shall be rejected.

The Bidding Documents shall be available at the Procurement Service, BAC Secretariat, Room 508, 5th Floor, Mabini Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City, starting on August 25, 2005 to September 7, 2005 upon payment of the non-refundable fee indicated above.

The Bidders shall submit their duly accomplished eligibility requirements, technical and financial proposals in three separate sealed envelopes at the Bulwagan ng Karunungan, Rizal I Bldg., DepED Complex, Meralco Avenue, Pasig City.

Bidding shall be conducted in accordance with procedures under the Implementing Rules and Regulations of R.A. 9184, otherwise known as the Government Procurement Reform Act. Information is also available at http://www.deped.gov.ph or www.procurementservice.org or call DepED-PS at telephone no. 636-65-43 or fax no. 636-65-42.

DepED-BAC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, or declare failure of bidding at any time prior to contract award without thereby incurring any liability to the affected parties.

(Sgd.) JUAN MIGUEL M. LUZ
Undersecretary and BAC Chairman

(PDI – Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
PNOC EXPLORATION CORPORATION
Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base in Mabini, Batangas

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

PNOC Exploration Corporation (PNOC EC), through the approved Corporate Budget for 2005 intends to apply the sum of **Philippine Peso Six Million Five Hundred Sixty Thousand Four Hundred (Php6,560,400.00) being the Approved Budget for Contract (ABC)** to payments under the contract for the Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base (BXD4-577). Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

PNOC EC now calls for the submission of Letters of Intent (LOIs) from potential Bidders to apply for eligibility for the Rehabilitation of Triangular Pier of PNOC EC Energy Supply Base. Bidders should possess a valid PCAB license applicable to the above type and cost of the contract, have completed a similar contract with a value of at least fifty percent (50%) of the ABC, and meet the other minimum eligibility requirements stated in the Eligibility Documents. Interested Bidders must submit their LOIs on or before *September 21, 2005 @ 4:00 P.M. at PNOC EC Contracts Group, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* and Secure the Eligibility Documents there from upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of **Pesos: Five Hundred (Php500.00).** Applications for eligibility will be evaluated on a "pass/fail" basis. **The last day for the submission of the accomplished Eligibility Documents shall be on the date of the opening of Eligibility Documents on *September 28, 2005 up to 3:00 P.M. at PNOC EC BAC Secretariat, Bldg.1 Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.*** *Only those Bidders passing the eligibility check will be entitled to purchase the Bidding Documents.*

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," and is restricted, unless otherwise stated, to organizations with at least seventy-five percent (75%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184, only Bids from eligible Bidders will be opened. In accordance with the IRR-A of R.A. 9184 a contract will only be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder who was determined as such during post-qualification.

Interested Bidders shall submit their accomplished Eligibility Documents to the BAC Secretariat at *Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City* on or before *3:00 P.M. of September 28, 2005.*

Interested eligible Bidders may obtain further information from PNOC EC and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from *9:30 A.M* to *4:00 P.M.* on *October 7, 2005.*

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by Bidders that passed the eligibility check upon the presentation of the Notice of Eligibility to the BAC Secretariat, at the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of *Php2,000.00* **Pesos.** The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the bidder or his authorized representative on or before *October 13,2005 @ 4:00 P.M.*

PNOC EC will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to Eligible Bidders on *October 14, 2005 @10:00 A.M. in PNOC EC Energy Supply Base, Malnaga, Mabini, Batangas.*

Eligible Bidders must submit their Bids at the address below on or before *3:00 P.M. of October 26, 2005.* All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form of *Surety Bond* and in an amount of *Php164,000.00 Pesos* or an equivalent amount in a freely convertible currency. Late Bids shall not be accepted. Bid opening shall be on *October 26, 2005,* @ 3:15 P.M. *in PNOC EC Conference Room, Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City.* Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the above mentioned address.

Completion of the Works is required by *ninety (90) Calendar Days.*

PNOC EC reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders

PNOC Exploration Corporation
Jose M. Eijansantos, BAC Chairman
Bldg. 1, Energy Center, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig City
DL-8401416, Fax-8401419

(Sgd.) Jose M. Eijansantos
Chairman
Bids and Awards Comittee

(PDI - September 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION
San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE BUSINESS SEPARATION AND UNBUNDLING PLAN (BSUP) AND ACCOUNTING AND COST ALLOCATION MANUAL (ACAM)

ERC CASE NO. 2005-251MC

NATIONAL TRANSMISSION CORPORATION (TRANSCO),
Applicant,
x----------x

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given of the filing on July 18, 2005, by the National Transmission Corporation (TRANSCO) of an application, docketed as ERC Case No. 2005-251MC, for approval of the Business Separation and Unbundling Plan (BSUP) and Accounting and Cost Allocation Manual (ACAM).

The Commission has set the said application for hearing on September 13, 2005 (Tuesday) at three o'clock in the afternoon (3:00 p.m.) at ERC Hearing Room, 15th Floor, Pacific Center Building, San Miguel Avenue, Pasig City.

All interested parties who may wish to comment on or oppose the said application should file their comments and/or oppositions on or before the date of hearing. Such parties who may wish to have the details of the application and who shall have manifested to the Commission their desire and intention to participate actively in the proceedings, may request that before the date of hearing, they be furnished with copies of the application by the applicant, which is hereby directed to furnish the parties making such request with copies of the application and its attachments. Likewise, any such interested party may examine the application and other pertinent records filed with the Commission during the usual office hours.

WITNESS, the Honorable **RODOLFO B. ALBANO, JR.**, Chairman, and the Honorables **OLIVER B. BUTALID**, **JESUS N. ALCORDO** and **ALEJANDRO Z. BARIN**, Commissioners, Energy Regulatory Commission, this 8th day of August 2005 at Pasig City.

(Sgd.) **MARIA TERESA A.R. CASTAÑEDA**
Executive Director III

(PDI - Sept. 1, 2005)

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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the Public that **INFOTECH PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC.** located at Unit 301 & 305 3rd Floor APC Building, 1186 Quezon Avenue, Quezon City with Tel. Nos. 371-2085 / 371-3181 has been approved for local recruitment by the Department of Labor and Employment with **License No. M-05-02-027** valid from February 14, 2005 to February 13, 2007.

(PDI - Sept. 1, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
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WANTED TO BUY

A NAME YOU CAN TRUST!
MANILA WATCH EXCHANGE
BUY • SELL • PAWN
ROLEX+OTHERS
& OTHER SWISS WATCHES
DIAMONDS / JEWELRY
HI-APPRAISAL/FAST CASH
REPAIR/POLISH ANY WATCH
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'PROFESSIONAL & CREDIBLE'
LOW 5% INTEREST
BUY • SELL • PAWN
SWISS WATCHES
AGENCIA de MAKATI-8897956
SECONDO AYALA CENTER-8940282
OPEN MONDAY TO SATURDAY

WANTED: Supplier of Cattle Carabao Bones (Raw or Calcined) Large Qty Required Cell 0919-5042459

GENERAL ITEMS FOR SALE

WANTED TO BUY

BUYING ROLEX
Other WATCHES, BEST PRICE
0917-8884040 • 7269687
7220433 • 4123543

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

MUNOZ-BRIONES PAWNSHOP
Auction
Sept. 05, 2005
All unredeemed article from April 1-30, 2005
354 Roosevelt Ave QC 9AM
109 Dela Rosa Makati 10AM
VZamora-Auctioneer

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late sps. Julian and Christina Esquejo has been extrajudicially settled by their heirs as per Doc No. 319, Page No. 65, Book No. VII Series of 2005 Notary Public Edward F. Gutierrez of Quezon City
(PDI-Aug. 31, Sept. 1&8, 2005)

INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

AGEL USA Product MLM 0917-8836068
www.iamagel.com/rich

Do you keep your eyes open for expansion/diversification? We're working on a project for the USA, Canada & Asia markets. Email:kenachiever@yahoo.com.sg

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RTW CONSIGN 09178830002

BUSINESS FOR SALE

Operating metal fabrication company with more than 30 product lines on Housewares, Organizer Racks, Home and Office furnishings sold at appliance and department stores nationwide is inviting investors to take over and continue the bussiness with assets of P20M pesos.
Please call 6453426; 6454681; 09178969535

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

MALE

NEED ELECTRICAL/MECHANICAL ENGRS W KNOWLEGDE IN AUTO-CAD CONTACT TEO CORRALES /JORGE ESTRADA 8024875 / 09175021270

FEMALE

SALES PROMO GIRLS
White to Fair Complexion FOR Beauty Products 7246781 7272890

SERVICE Crew 0927-7245708

XPRNCD Masahista 6891069

MALE/FEMALE

DEPED-MARIKINA CITY
OSEC DECSB TCH2 - 36100 36115; TCH1 - 47760; 47783; 47810; 47676

NEED DENTIST URGENT 8732672

OFC STAFF 0918-2742245

SALES / MARKETING
BAKERS INGREDIENTS
W/3 YRS. EXP.,
BAKING/FOOD TECH
Tel. 8922165-(0916)8419056
brcopra2003@yahoo.com

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER
(NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

Oh most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity. Oh star of the sea, help me and show herein you are my Mother. Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity. There are none that can withstand Your power. Oh Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x). Holy Mother, I place this course in your hands (3x). Sweet Mother, I place this course in Your hands (3x). Holy Spirit, You who solve all problems so that I can attain my goal, You who gave me the divine gift to forgive and forget all evil against me and that in all instances in my life You are with me. I want this short prayer. Thank you for all things as I confirm once again that I never want to be separated from You in eternal glory. Thank you for Your mercy towards me and mine. The person must say this prayer 3 consecutive days. After 3 days the request will be granted. This prayer must be published after the favor is granted.

BENGUET ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
Alapang, La Trinidad, Benguet
Tel. Nos. (074) 422-2110 / (074) 422-2000 Fax Nos. (074) 422-2848

INVITATION TO A PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE AND SEALED BIDDING

Interested parties are hereby invited to a PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE and SEALED BIDDING for the SUPPLY and DELIVERY of our various POLE LINE HARDWARES and CONDUCTOR WIRES.

The **PRE-QUALIFICATION CONFERENCE** will be held on **12 SEPTEMBER 2005** at **2:00 P.M.** at the **BOARD ROOM, BENECO BLDG., UTILITY ROAD, DPS COMPOUND, BAGUIO CITY.** where the material specifications and other related matters will be discussed.

BIDDING PROPER (submission and opening of bids) shall be on **19 SEPTEMBER 2005** at **1:00 P.M** at the **BOARD ROOM, BENECO BLDG., UTILITY ROAD, DPS COMPOUND, BAGUIO CITY.**

Bid documents will be available after the Pre-Bid Conference and only those present during the PRE-BID CONFERENCE and who are able to submit their INCOME TAX RETURNS (for the past 3 years), AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (for the past 2 years) and COMPANY PROFILES will be allowed during the BIDDING PROPER.

BENECO reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid most advantageous to BENECO.

For further inquiries, please contact Mr. Jun delos Santos at the above telephone numbers.

THE MANAGEMENT

(PDI – September 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
City Government of Cotabato
Office of the City Mayor

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Name of Project: Proposed Construction of Fence at New City Hall
Location: Malagapas, Rosary Heights X, Cotabato City
Appropriation/Approved Budget for the Contract: Php 5,871,345.40
Source of Fund: Trust Fund

ITEM NO.	DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
I	Excavation	435.00 cu m
II.	Pile Works	870.00 pcs
III.	Concrete Works:	
a)	Wall Footing	45.00 cu m
b)	Column Footing	75.17 cu m
c)	Concrete Column	82.00 cu m
IV.	Masonry Works	
a)	CHB Walling/Stiffener	997.00 sq m
V.	Iron/Metal Works	156.00 units
VI.	Guard house	3.00 units
VII.	Electrical System	Lumpsum
VIII.	Landscaping	Lumpsum
IX.	Painting	1,841.00 sq m

The conduct of bid for this project, particularly criteria for eligibility check, examination and evaluation of bids and post-qualification, shall be in accordance with the provisions of Republic Act 9184 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations.

Interested bidders shall strictly follow the schedule of bid as follows:

Eligibility check for interested bidders:
September 16, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato City

Pre-bid conference:
November 7, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato City

Opening of Bids/Submission of Bids:
November 17, 2005, 10:00 am at the City Engineering Office, Cotabato City

A non- refundable bidder's fee of P10,000.00 will be collected by the City Government of Cotabato from each interested bidder.

The Bids and Awards Committee reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waive any required formalities thereon and disregard any bids to the advantage of the City Government. Bid documents may be secured from the Office on General Services anytime during office hours.

(Sgd.) ATTY. MANDO V. SINSUAT JR.
BAC Chairman

(PDI – September 1 & 8, 2005)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Take notice that the following Official Receipts of **Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko)**, have been reported lost:

OR Nos.

279309	279318	279328	279331
279335	279506	279519	279520
279522	279523	279524	279527
279529	279530	279724	279740

The public is advised /warned that any transaction/s will not be honored by Philippine Hoteliers, Inc. (Dusit Hotel Nikko).

LCR FORM 10-1 (LCRO)

Republic of the Philippines
Local Civil Registry Office
Province of Misamis Oriental
Cagayan de Oro City

NOTICE FOR PUBLICATION

In compliance with Section 5 of R.A. No. 9048, a notice is hereby served to the public that **NATIVIDAD L. GOKING** has filed with this Office a petition for change of first name from **TRINIDAD** to **NATIVIDAD** in the Certificate of Live Birth of **TRINIDAD LAO** who was born on November 15, 1952 at **BATUAN, BOHOL** and whose parents are **LAO ESING** and **PELAGIA PANCHO.**

Any person adversely affected by said petition may file his written opposition within this office not later than September 5, 2005.

(Sgd.) NORMA S. DIPUTADO
City Civil Registrar

(PDI–Aug. 25 & Sept. 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA OPERATOR'S LICENSE NO. M-04-01-300 ☐ New ☒ Renewal (Previous License) Number M-02-00-285)
TIN NO. 210-880-572-000

By authority vested in me by the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules implementing the Code, and payment of the license fee in the amount of SIX THOUSAND PESOS (P6,000.00) ONLY having been made as per Official Receipt Number 4889604 C dated 08 December 2004 and posting of the appropriate cash and surety bonds of P25,000,000 and P100,000.00 respectively, having been complied with, this LICENSE is hereby granted to M to establish, direct and or manage the

PRESTIGE PROMOTIONS, Inc.
Ground Floor, Lupin Building,
2768 Faraday Street, Bo. San Isidro,
Makati City

This license which expires on 07 November 2006 is valid only in the Philippines. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 8th day of December 2004.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, Sr., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI – September 1, 2005)

Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION
LICENSE FOR PRIVATE RECRUITMENT AND PLACEMENT AGENCY

PRPA LICENSE NO. M-05-06-073 ☐ New ☒ Renewal
TIN NO. 000-217-936

This license to recruit, process and deploy landbased workers is hereby granted to

REGCRIS MARKETING NETWORK, INC.
2768 Faraday Street
Bo. San Isidro, Makati City

Pursuant to the Labor Code and the Omnibus Rules implementing the Code.

This license shall be valid for the period MARCH 28, 2005 to MARCH 27, 2007 unless sooner revoked, cancelled or suspended for violation of the Labor Code and related issuances. Transfer or use by any other person or entity renders this license null and void.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Official Seal of National Capital Region, Department of Labor and Employment, to be affixed at the City of Manila, Philippines, this 28th day of MARCH 2005.

(Sgd.) RICARDO S. MARTINEZ, Sr., CESO III
Regional Director

(PDI – September 1, 2005)

ERRATUM

In the "Announcement of Intention to make a Tender Offer For Shares of APEX MINING CO., INC. published on page 9 of the Philippine Daily Inquirer (August 26, 2005 issue), a slight error (not the fault of PDI) was inadvertently made. The figure (Php 0.6723) in line 12 thereof should read (Php 0.6724) to coincide with the amount in words preceding it.

For: Mapula Creek Gold Corporation
Crew Gold Corporation

Sgd. Atty. Leo Cleto A. Gamolo
Chairman/President-Mapula Creek Gold Corporation
Authorized Representative-Crew Gold Corporation

JOB Market
visit us at:
www.jobmarketonline.com

People, Events & Products

E-mail: pr_pep@inquirer.com.ph
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Editor Aries Espinosa

Samsung DigitAll Hope contest invites entries

SAMSUNG Electronics Philippines Corporation (Sepco) calls on NGOs, civic groups and other cause-oriented organizations to send in applications for Samsung DigitAll Hope, the company's largest regional social program that provides funding for the best technology project that empower youth and disabled.

The umbrella theme for 2005 is "Imagine a brighter tomorrow today". The Philippine contest focuses on assistance programs for disadvantaged youth and people living with disabilities that provide solutions on how they can lead richer lives through existing and new development technologies. Last year's grant awardee, the Altiora Quaero Foundation and Salesians of St. John Bosco Philippines North Province received a total of P4,000,000 for the program Just Farm IT! and E Learning for Out-of-School-Youth respectively. The winning project benefited economically disadvantaged rural youth from farming families by training them to become technology savvy agri-entrepreneurs and remain gainfully employed in their family farms.

"A brighter tomorrow is within reach for Filipinos who embrace the benefits that technology can bring to their lives," says Sepco president and CEO Hyuck Jae Shim. "Samsung DigitAll Hope builds on our company's belief in the power of technology to improve the plight of individuals and society as a whole. DigitAll Hope realizes our goal of giving back to the communities within which we operate in a meaningful way. We are proud to say that the program has spread its wings well, and we are certain we can extend its benefits exponentially with our long-term commitment."

As part of the grant selection process, Sepco has partnered with the National Youth Commission to help identify organizations that can benefit from the funding.

Aimed at enriching lives with technology, Samsung DigitAll Hope extends across seven Asian countries - Australia, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. With a further USD500,000 commitment from Samsung, the program reaches new heights with a total of US$1.65 million since 2003 to help community organizations in South East Asia and Australia bridge the digital divide.

The closing date for submissions is Sept. 15. For more information, please visit http://www.samsung.com.ph. Applications are available at the website. Potential applicants are invited to submit applications to Angie L. Limbaco, Ground Floor Bonaventure Plaza, Ortigas Avenue, San Juan, Metro Manila.

RELAXING AMIDST THE FAST-PACED CITY AT THE LEGACY

The Legacy which introduced attractive, single-detached houses to a new market, sees its growing community flourish further with the recent unveiling of the Pelham Quadruplex, the model unit of which was recently blessed and opened for viewing. The Pelham Quadruplex homes, composed of four 3-storey units under a single roof, have spacious floor areas of 180 square meters each. Each individual unit has four bedrooms, a maid's quarters, three bathrooms and a powder room, a living room, family room and dining area. The Legacy at Montgomery Place is located at E. Rodriguez Sr, Avenue, Quezon City. For details on the newly launched units and payment schemes, call 728-7000, log on to www.ayalaland.com.ph. or e-mail ayala-sales@ayala-land.com.ph. Shown are architect Marcus de Guzman, Ayala Land's residential buildings group SVP Angela Lacson and project manager Jose Juan Jugo with interior designer J. Antonio Mendoza cutting the ribbon during the blessing rites of the Pelham Quadruplex model unit.

LBPEA, MAXICARE CONTRACT SIGNING

The LandBank of the Philippines Employees Association (LBPEA) sealed another year of agreement with Maxicare. In attendance during the contract signing are: (seated from left) Josephine Aguilar, senior vice president; Sergio Naranjilla Jr., president; Julio Badiong Jr., president for internal affairs (LBPEA); Maria Lourdes Diaz-Pineda, VP for internal affairs (LBPEA); and Garizaldo Casul, VP for external affairs.

Oral rehydration solutions first aid for dengue

NOT only should dengue fever (DF) be feared, it must also be prevented to avoid the serious and fatal complications it brings.

DF can lead to grave hemorrhagic/hypovolemic shock due to late diagnosis and delayed intravenous fluid/blood replacement therapy. However, DF is not such a dreaded viral illness when early home treatment with oral rehydration therapy (ORT) is begun and medical consultation is sought before complications arise to set in between the third and fourth day of high fever. The primary aim of DF therapy is to prevent hemoconcentration, which is reflected by a rising hematocrit. Hemoconcentration is a sign of decreasing plasma volume or hypovolemia. This can be done at home with the administration of aggressive oral rehydration solutions (ORS), which are also recommended for the treatment of acute diarrheas, according to Dr. Arturo C. Ludan, an authority on oral rehydration therapy.

To be effective physiologic ORS should contain 45 to 60 mEq/liter of sodium ion. Therefore, sports drinks or energy beverages should never be used for DF and diarrhea treatments because these contain a low sodium concentration of 20 mEq/liter only. The increased sodium is needed to preserve the plasma volume.

Thus, during the first two to three days the child is at home, parents should start giving 500 to one liter of the ORS in sips over a 24-hour period. This should be continued until they see their doctor for evaluation and for further hospital treatment with appropriate intravenous fluids for confirmed dengue cases. However, as ORS are salty and a little sweet, these can be chilled to enable the patient to take them with least resistance. Adding table sugar to increase ORS sweetness, on the other hand, must be avoided because doing so will upset the physiologic formulation of ORS. Rice water or "am" may also be given to minimize vomiting and to provide a source of calories.

Among the physiologic ORS that complied with the World Health Organization's recommendations include Orhydrate, Cholyte, Glucolyte 60 and Pedialyte 45.

Learn how to write a grant proposal

HOW to Write a Grant Proposal is a one-day intensive workshop where NGO participants will go through a step-by-step procedure in reviewing what is entailed in a proposal, how to ensure you are following funding guidelines and what research one has to do to make sure your proposal is a fit with that of the funding agency.

The most important part of a grant proposal is its content - what your organization is about, your track record, your program, and, most importantly, your resolve and ability to succeed in your plan is what a funding program person needs to read.

Many organizations are unsure and timid in their achievements on paper. John Silva will teach you to identify the very best of your work, your successes, your challenges, and help you write it to make a persuasive and winning grant proposal. He will challenge you to think-out-of-the-box so that the solutions you will provide in a proposal are unique, doable, and will actually yield results.

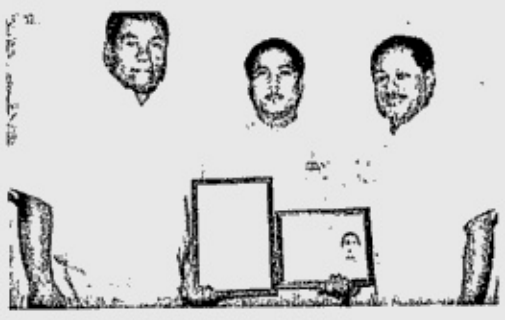
In addition, John will share with you an assortment of his letters to donor prospects, mini-proposals, articles, press releases, and other documents that constitute a "grant proposal" and have been successful. He will also teach you how to verbally state your proposal to a funder, highlight key areas, and present persuasive points so that your proposal is funded.

The whole day seminar will be held Sept. 30, Friday, at the National Museum from 8:30 a.m. till 5 p.m. Workshop Fee: HOM Partner Organizations - P3,500; Non-HOM Partner Organizations - P4,000. The fee includes hand-outs, a CD, snacks and lunch, and a tour of the National Museum.

Seats are limited so please call 843-5231/843-7044 or email homla@info.com.ph to reserve your seat.

SAS PHILS AWARDS EPCI BANK

SAS Philippines, the leading provider of business intelligence and analytics software, awarded its 2005 Customer Innovation Award to Equitable PCI Bank for breaking new ground through the strategic application of SAS solutions in the Philippine banking industry. Photo shows (from left) Andrew Quek, chief business solution officer, SAS Asia Pacific; Becky Paguia, assistant vice president of business information systems division, Equitable PCI Bank; Hendry Mora, FSI sector manager, SAS Phils; and Emmanuel 'Sonny' Halili, managing director, SAS Phils.



HONESTY THRIVES

Reliance Resources Corp supervisor Angelito Caintoy (center) assigned at SM City Lucena, received plaques of recognition and commendation from RRC vice president for operations Quiterio Acosta (left) together with RRC general manager Joselito Isla (right). Caintoy found and returned a clutch bag containing half a million pesos to SM mall manager Annie Garcia.

PUP MEETS GLOBAL TRENDS

Polytechnic University of the Philippines, a government educational institution signs up with Amadeus, to provide internationally recognized certification training on computerized reservations system (CRS) to their tourism, transportation management and hotel and restaurant management students. Shown are Amadeus Philippines GM Albert Villadolid with PUP tourism, transportation management and development chair professor Yolanda Montances after the contract signing.

USSCI RECEIVES ISO CERTIFICATION

Universal Steel Smelting Co Inc (USSCI), with its management team having given top priority on manufacturing facility modernization in recent years, has been conferred the distinguished citation of being ISO 9001:2000 standard compliant, a testament that its manufacturing processes operates with a total quality management system which has been assessed as conforming to internationally acclaimed manufacturing standards. TUV Phils Inc of Germany, USCCI's certifying body, has fully documented the highest quality and safety of the products, systems and services of USSCI as a reinforcing bar manufacturer.

ProductFILES

Send stress to your outbox

A GOOD and clever way of beating the ill effects of stress is to live clean and healthy. For instance, make our office meals and snacks work for us. OKF Aloe Vera Juice is a sure way to counter whatever stress we may experience in the office. OKF Aloe Vera juice is loaded with pulp bits that are high in calcium and vitamins C and E, powerful anti oxidants that improve the immune system function, promote skin health and protect the cardiovascular system. It has a special formulation that makes it an ideal thirst quencher with no sticky aftertaste. What's more it is convenient to bring with its easy-to-open can packaging. OKF Aloe Vera Juice is also available in SM Supermarkets, Mercury Drug Store, Robinsons, Ever Supermarkets, Puregold, Walter Mart and other major supermarkets nationwide. It also comes in 1.5 liter and 500 ml bottles.

Hot Loops new treats

HOT Loops Donuts has added two unique delights to satisfy sweet cravings. Javalicious, a premium glazed donut filled with coffee cream and topped off with a twisty hint of cinnamon, perks up the day. It's just like a donut, a shot of coffee and a cinnamon stick all stirred into one tasty treat. White Choco Fantasy, another delectable hit, combines Hot Loops' winning chewy premium donut, luscious caramel filling, a frosting of delicate white chocolate topped with cookie sprinkles. Hot Loops Donuts are served round-the-clock in 125 Ministop stores in the metro, and are also available in Robinsons Supermarkets in Robinsons Galleria, Robinsons Place Ermita, Robinsons Commonwealth, Robinsons Congressional and Big R Metro East. Hot Loops shops are located at Robinsons Pioneer and Robinsons Galleria.

Diesel Plus: An energy crisis fighter

THE ENERGY crisis is for real, triggering rapidly increasing costs for imported crude oil. One practical solution is coconut methyl ester (CME) or coco-diesel fuel. With vast coconut resources throughout the country, coconut derivatives are indeed enormously valuable to meet our needs. Coconut transformed and mixed into fuel is appropriate as an alternative fuel for public transportation and agricultural equipment. Not to mention, huge savings on the part of the vehicle owner and operator. The use of CME mixed with diesel proved increased mileage efficiency on various vehicles tested. A liter of coco-diesel fuel may be slightly higher than normal diesel, but the former outweighs its slight cost by being environment-friendly. CME, for one, contains no sulfur, thus preventing the occurrence of acid rain and smog, plus it does not emit carbon monoxide and other health-hazardous substances. For inquiries e-mail support@u-earmore.com or visit their office at Unit 201 Emerald Bldg. 24 Emerald Ave. Ortigas Center, Pasig City, with tel. nos. (0632) 638-2934/634-9578/636-4998.

BITS Clips

Dream launches sales promo

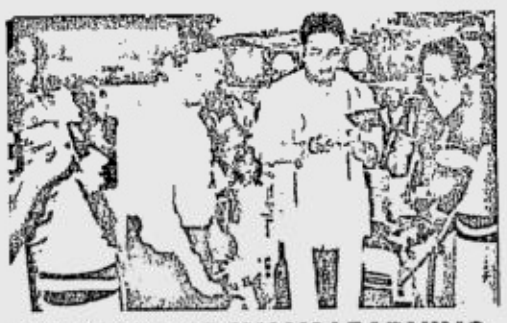
DREAM Satellite TV, the first and only provider of direct-to-home satellite pay television services in the Philippines, is bringing 18 of its subscribers to famous destinations anywhere around the world though its latest sales promotional campaign. New and existing subscribers of Dream Plan 750 have the chance to win travel packages to anywhere in the world, plus pocket money via the raffle promo titled 'Dream the World'. Every subscription, reload, or upgrade of the Dream Plan 750 entitles the subscriber to one raffle entry to the sales promo. Winners will be drawn on Sept. 5 (included are those who subscribe, reload, upgrade or reactivate their account from May 1 to Aug. 31) and Jan. 9, 2006 (covered are those who will subscribe, reload, or upgrade their Dream Plan 750 account from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31). The names of the winners will be announced over Dream FM 106.7 radio and published at the Philippine Daily Inquirer on Sept. 7, for the first draw and on Jan. 11, 2006 for the second draw. Winners will also be notified via mail.

AHS '56 marks golden year

ALUMNI of Arellano (Public) High School class of 1956, who will mark their golden anniversary in April 2006, are invited to register and join in the preparation of the activities. This was announced by lawyer Deogracias Eufemio class valedictorian who is the president of the class alumni association. Members of the class can call up the following for registration and inclusion in the class directory: Rexy Y. Sese at 521-9380, Angie Papa at 740-3757 or (0919) 205-2253; Herman Gamboa at 817-1557; and Chie Santos at 884-2461 to 64. The celebration of the 50th anniversary will be ushered by a Christmas party on Dec. 30, at Club Filipino. Alumni from the United States, Canada and Europe are expected to attend the alumni homecoming tentatively set at the Manila Hotel on April 30, 2006.

Mapua HS '65 reunion

MAPUA High School Class '65 would like to invite their classmates and friends to the class' 40th Anniversary Reunion on Nov. 26, at the Manila Golf and Country Club located in Harvard Road, Forbes Park, Makati City. Come and have a good time with your fellow Mapuans. For inquiries, call Wilma Alegre at (02) 822-5816 or 0927-4874245.



CRADLE TO CRAYONS LEARNING CENTER INAUGURATION

Cradle to Crayons Learning Center was recently inaugurated in 7616 Chestnut St. Marcelo Green Village, Parañaque. Former BIR Commissioner Guillermo Parayno and education consultant professor Maricar De Ocampo stood as inaugural sponsors while assistant parish priest Fr. Greg Garcia officiated the blessing. Also in photo is Cradle to Crayons VP Jaz Buñag.

FIGURE SKATING CHAMPIONS

The growing enthusiasm for the sport and leisure activity figure skating in the country was further boosted by the 2005 Philippine National Figure Skating Championships, hosted by the SM Ice Skating Rinks The gold medalists in their respective divisions were Class A (Senior) Men - John Ross Solanzo; Class B (Junior) Ladies - Ana Gabrielle Transporte; Class C (Novice) Men - Jovanii Amaquin, Ladies - Verniece Enciso; Class D (Intermediate) Ladies - Nikki Ann Recasata; and Class E (Juvenile) Men - Brian Choi, Ladies - Patricia Syquiatco. Photo shows Class B-Ladies winners with close relatives and engineer Ric Camaligan, first vice president of the SM Leisure Group, during the awarding ceremonies.

BUSINESS

Aug. inflation seen at 6.6-7.1% range

But may hit as high as 9% with VAT implementation

By Doris C. Dumlao and Michelle V. Remo

THE COUNTRY'S inflation rate likely eased to a range of 6.6-7.1 percent in August from a year ago despite the rising global oil prices, the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas said.

In July, the annual inflation rate had slowed down to 7.1 percent from 7.6 percent in June, bringing the average seven-month inflation rate to 8.2 percent.

BSP Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the further deceleration of the consumer price index last month was expected from the slower increase in food prices.

However, University of Asia and the Pacific professor Victor Abola said inflation could hit as high as 9 percent when the expanded value-added tax law was finally implemented.

Abola said the impact of the rising oil prices plus the imposition of VAT on oil and other previously VAT exempted products could push inflation to 8.5-9 percent range.

Although inflation could be that high, he said the impact of the VAT on oil in actual terms would not be as burdensome as the public was thinking. "I don't think it will be catastrophic, especially if the government would provide safety nets for the poor," he said.

Abola urged the government to consider other revenue sources, such as raising the excise tax on luxury vehicles, and use the proceeds to provide support to low-income sectors.

His research showed that those earning an annual income of less than P60,000 would only have to shell out between P178.96 and P723.12 per year due to the VAT on oil and an estimated 50-percent rise in oil prices this year from last year.

He said the VAT was a progressive tax and would burden the rich more than the poor.

In the meantime, government economic managers are expecting a rebound in the agriculture sector in the second semester as threats of the El Niño dry spell fizzled out. Bountiful farm harvests would ensure cheaper food supply.

But despite the slowdown in inflation rate, the BSP is finding it more difficult to ward off monetary tightening because of rising interest rates in the United States and the still high inflation rate level.

The BSP's Monetary Board voted to keep its overnight rates steady for the fourth consecutive month last Thursday, but some economists believe the institution might not be able to hold off monetary tightening for long.

Based on the sensitivity analysis of the National Economic and Development Authority, every one-percent increase in domestic land transport fuel prices would push up inflation by .07 percentage points. For every one percentage point rise in wages, inflation is seen to increase by 0.26 percentage points while economic growth is seen to decline by .07 percentage points.

Also, a widening interest rate differential between the US dollar and peso assets is seen to result in investment outflows especially as the US Federal Reserve jacked up its targeted funds rate by another quarter percentage to 3.5 percent earlier this month.

Aside from its overnight rates, which were kept at 7 percent for the borrowing rate and 9.25 percent for the lending rate, the BSP also uses the reserve requirement as a tool to mop up excess liquidity.

DA jacks up export target to $3B in '05

By Christine A. Gaylican

THE COUNTRY is expected to generate some $3 billion from the exportation of agricultural products this year as new product lines are introduced and warmly accepted by various markets, the Department of Agriculture said.

This translates to a 20-percent increase from the agriculture sector's original export target this year of $2.6 billion.

The department said that new products such as coco fiber, abaca fiber and other fresh produce were now in demand in Japan, the United States, Europe, Australia, New Zealand, the Middle East and in certain Asean countries.

Agriculture Assistant Secretary Salvador Salacup said the department was optimistic of hitting the increased target as export receipts as of this month already reached $2.4 billion.

Salacup noted that demand for processed products such as buko pie, processed pineapples, dried mangoes and fish fillets had been increasing steadily.

"Aside from cavendish banana, our fresh sweet bananas and the lakatan variety are carving a niche in the Japanese market," he said.

The department also noted that certain agriculture products were being bought for industrial use. It said that Philippine abaca fiber was being exported to Germany and bought by vehicle assembler Daimler-Benz, which had been using the product as lining for its vehicles' inner and composite panels.

In China, Salacup said the Philippines had been selling emerging products such as geo-textiles (coco fiber and coco peat).

Filipino firm Cocotechnologies Inc. recently signed a memorandum of understanding with Guangzhou Rivers Enterprise Co. Ltd. for the supply of coco coir and geotextiles, mats, bio-logs and coconut peat, which were used for soil erosion control.

The company has also developed a wide range of coco coir- and peat-based products that are already being shipped to Japan, Europe and the US.

SSS seen to start losing money in 2008

By Daxim L. Lucas

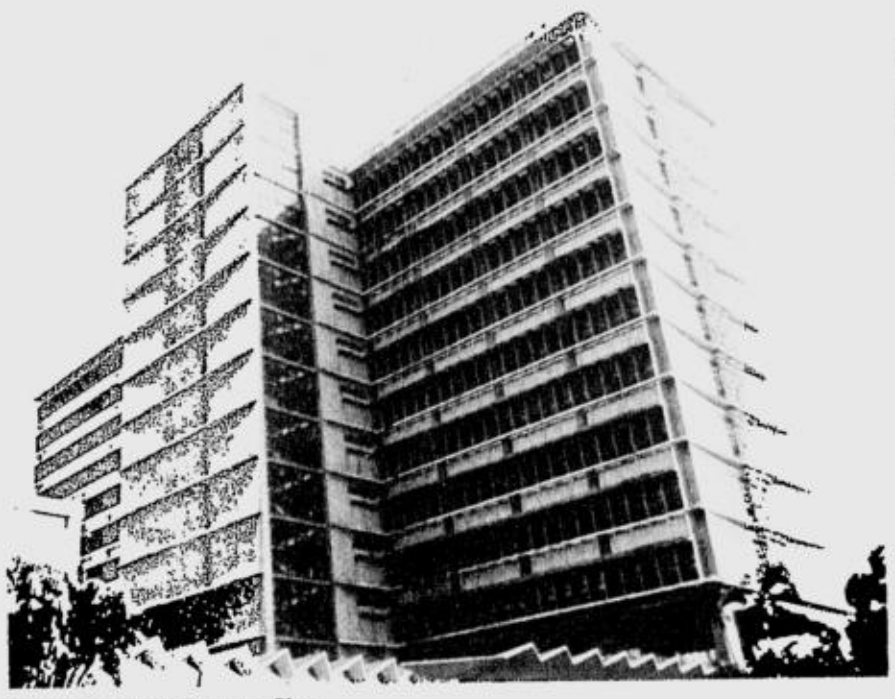
THE COUNTRY'S state-administered private pension fund may start losing money in 2008 and bleed all the way to bankruptcy by 2027 if employee contributions fail to keep up with rising benefit pay-out.

Nonetheless, this projection represents a significant improvement over the previous financial standing of the Social Security System (SSS)—where it was predicted to go bankrupt by 2015. The improvement was brought about by the 1-percentage point increase in employers' contributions in 2003.

In a press briefing on Wednesday, SSS president and CEO Corazon de la Paz stressed the importance of having premiums paid by members and their employers keep pace with the periodic increases in benefits.

"We're operating on survival mode," she told reporters. "We're trying everything in order to buy time."

SSS manages a P175-billion pension fund for 25 million members from private companies. Under the law, its obligations to pensioners and members are guaranteed by the state, representing a large contingent liability for the national government should the fund become insolvent.



SSS building in Quezon City

SSS executive vice-president and chief actuary Horacio Templo said the Palace-approved contribution rate hike from 8.4 percent to 9.4 percent in 2003 extended the pension fund's life. He, however, added that a long-term solution was needed.

"Increasing the rate of contribution [further] is something not doable in the country at this time," he said, explaining the difficulty of mandating unpopular contribution rate hikes versus the difficulty of reining in popular benefit payout increases.

Templo had already vetoed a proposal for another round of increases in benefits for pensioners earlier this year, arguing that SSS' investment reserve was in no position to absorb additional financial liability.

"What we're doing is to manage the fund by paying the right amount of benefits to the right beneficiaries," he said.

The SSS has just concluded an extensive review of its financial position, concluding that, although it has managed to reverse earlier losses, long-term threats to its financial health still exist.

"This is a warning for us not to increase benefits without corresponding increases in members' contribution," he said.

For the fund to survive until 2027, Templo said members' contributions had to rise by up to 8 percent yearly until 2009, gradually tapering off to 3 percent toward 2027. Benefits, on the other hand, are expected to rise at a steady clip of 6 percent yearly.

De la Paz pointed out that the pension fund's difficulties were compounded by the fact that each rate hike must first be approved by Malacañang, unlike the Government Service Insurance System that could unilaterally decide on premium rate adjustments.

5 Taiwanese firms eye new projects in RP

By Ronnel W. Domingo

FIVE Taiwanese companies are keen on investing at least $3.8 million or about P213 million in projects that would be put up at the Subic special economic zones, the Manila Economic and Cultural Office reported yesterday.

Meco resident representative Antonio I. Basilio also said investments from Taiwan were expected to increase by 15 percent this year to about $80.5 million or P4.5 billion, from $70 million in 2004.

Basilio said three companies were eyeing new projects while two were looking at expanding existing operations.

He said Coin Chemicals, which was into chemical additives production, had initially earmarked $2 million or about P112 million for the production of pain and lithium-ion batteries.

Ell Tong Telecom wants to invest at least $300,000 or about P17 million to engage in the re-manufacturing of digital and analogue telecommunications switching systems.

Tailin Abrasives, a leading abrasives manufacturer in Taiwan, intends to locate most of its production capacity in Subic by doubling its current production capacity with an outlay of $1.5 million. The PTA Group—maker of cooking equipment and components—plans to locate its main manufacturing facility here.

Optical disc maker Lead Data plans to put up a $20-million facility in Subic, with capacity to produce $12 million worth of CD and DVD products a year.

Basilio said the five firms made up the latest batch of Taiwanese locators in the Subic SEZ.

'Tonyboy' keen on going into 3G business

By Clarissa S. Batino

FORMER Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. chair Antonio "Tonyboy" Cojuangco is planning to stage a comeback into the telecom industry through the third-generation wireless technology or 3G, said Cesar Reyes, one of Cojuangco's trusted executives.

"We are very interested to participate in the 3G business," said Cesar Reyes in an interview.

Reyes heads some of Cojuangco's businesses, including Philippine Multi-Media Systems Inc., operator of Dream Satellite TV.

Reyes served as a senior official of PLDT when Cojuangco was president and majority owner of the telecom giant. He also used to head PLDT's Mabuhay Philippines Satellite Corp.

Reyes refused to divulge the details of Cojuangco's plan. The group, however, can either put up a new company or buy an existing telco to avoid going through the process of getting a franchise.

The 3G technology will allow subscribers to make full-motion, real-time video calls and to download contents faster.

The NTC said it would award 3G frequencies to enfranchised telecom companies with the capability to finance the infrastructure rollout and operate the network.

COJUANGCO

Connectivity Unlimited Resources Enterprises Inc. or Cure was the first company to apply for a 3G license with the National Telecommunications Commission.

Industry sources said Cure was owned by former Trade Minister Roberto Ongpin, Gregorio Araneta III and Enrique Razon of International Container Terminal Services Inc.

Sources believed that the three businessmen would use Cure as the holding company that would bring in Li Ka-shing's Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. into the country. Cure, sources said, might try to buy into moribund Express Telecommunications Inc., which has a franchise to operate a telecom service.

Multimedia Telephony Inc. had also sought a 3G license.

"We have two pending applications for 3G. One is from Cure and the other from Multimedia Telephony," said NTC chair Ronald Solis earlier.

Multimedia is managed by Jose de Venecia III, son of the House Speaker. It has a nationwide franchise to operate a broadband network, a high-speed infrastructure for Internet.

The company said it had tied up with foreign broadband operator Callahan Associates International, which operates in Spain and Belgium.

The NTC said it would issue five 3G licenses of different bandwidth.

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DOE offering 4 oil, gas contracts

By Clarissa S. Batino

FOUR oil and gas exploration contracts covering areas in offshore Palawan and Sulu Sea are up for grabs, according to the Department of Energy.

At the same time, the department is offering prospective investors 11 areas for geothermal energy projects and seven locations for coal field development and production, said Energy Secretary Raphael Lotilla in a statement.

The DOE said it was pursuing a new round of Philippine energy contracting, a government program aimed at inviting investors to explore and develop local energy resources. This program was designed to improve the country's energy independence particularly in view of the surging petroleum prices.

"We invite upstream companies, local and foreign, to participate in this year's energy contracting and to seize the best possible investment opportunities available in the energy sector," said Lotilla.

He said the contracts will be awarded in June 2006.

A study made by the DOE and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation in 2002 showed that out of the country's potential resource of 9 billion barrels in fuel oil equivalent, about 5 billion barrels were likely to be found in Palawan and Sulu Sea.

The four available petroleum contract areas cover a total of 53,989.40 square kilometers in shallow to deep water areas near proven petroleum reserves in offshore Southwest Palawan, East Palawan and Sulu Sea basin.

Early this month, the DOE signed with the consortium of Australia's BHP Billiton Petroleum PTY Ltd., Amerada Hess Ltd., Unocal Sulu Ltd. and Sandakan Oil II, a petroleum service contract for oil and gas exploration in offshore Sulu Sea. This form is under the first round of the contracting program.

The consortium is investing $43.9 million for the seven-year exploration program that covers the conduct of comprehensive geological and geophysical studies and the drilling of four exploration wells.

Since December 2004, following the Supreme Court decision affirming the constitutionality of the Philippine Mining Act, the DOE has awarded 12 petroleum service contracts with minimum financial commitments worth $141 million.

For the geothermal sector, the DOE will offer 11 areas for exploration, development and even utilization for power generation.

Contract areas Sta.Lucia-Iwahig, Puerto Princesa, Palawan; Mambucal, Murcia, Negros Occidental; Camiguin, Camiguin Province, and Malabuyoc, Cebu are the potential sites for non-power geothermal applications like spa development, according to DOE.

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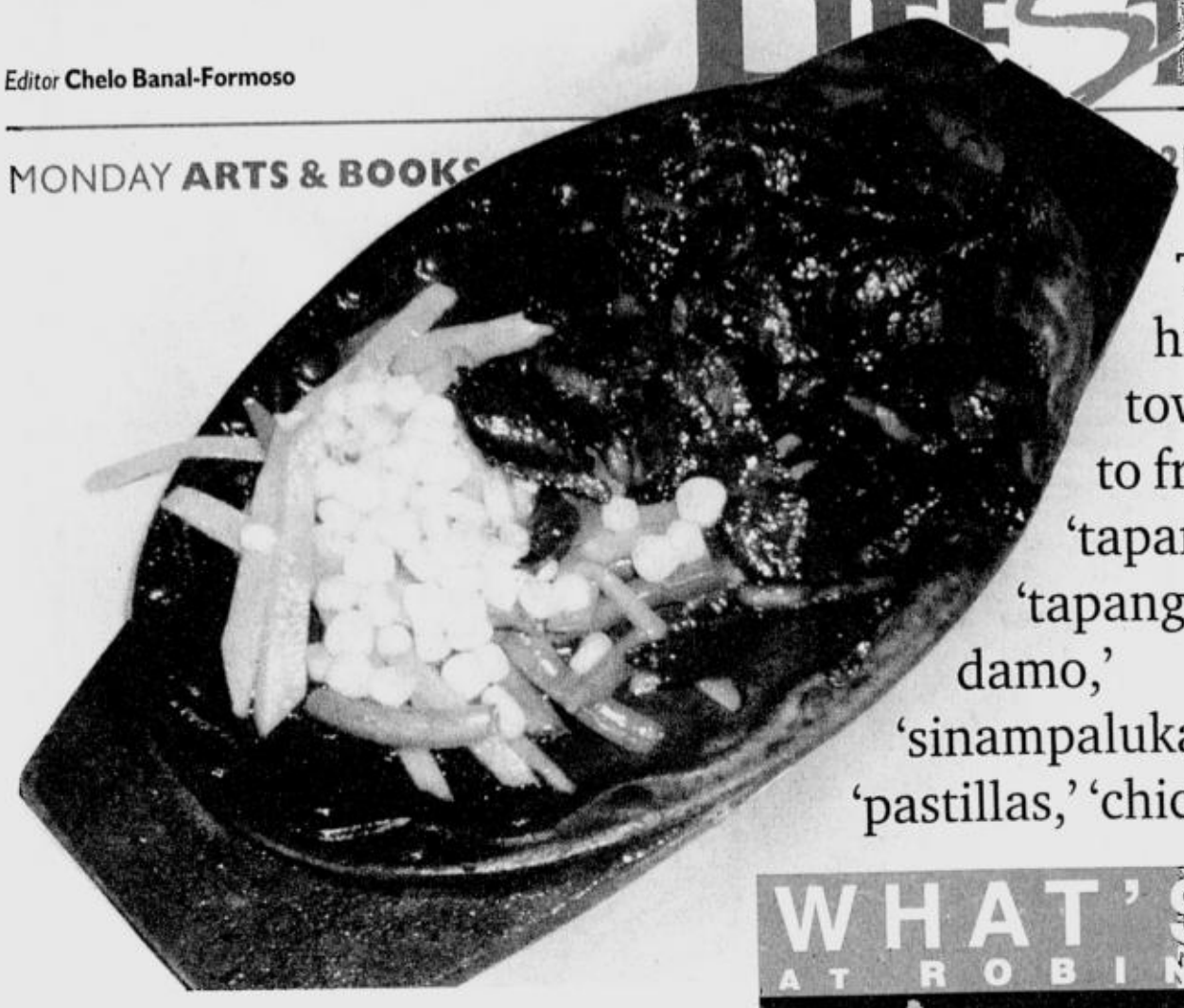
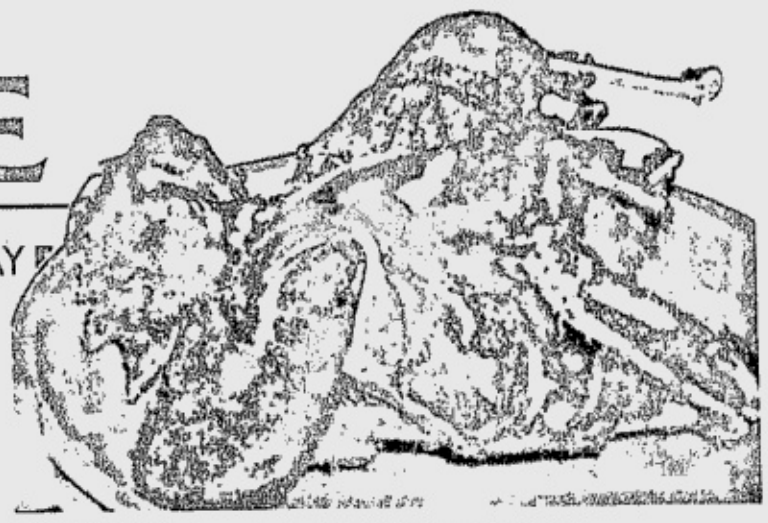
Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

LIFESTYLE



HOT plate of *tapang usa*

This historical town is home to fried 'itik,' 'tapang usa,' 'tapang baboy damo,' 'sinampalukang manok,' 'pastillas,' 'chicharon...'



IT DOESN'T look much, but this fried *itik* is delicious.

Bulacan byroad binges

Text and photos by Michaela Fenix
Contributor

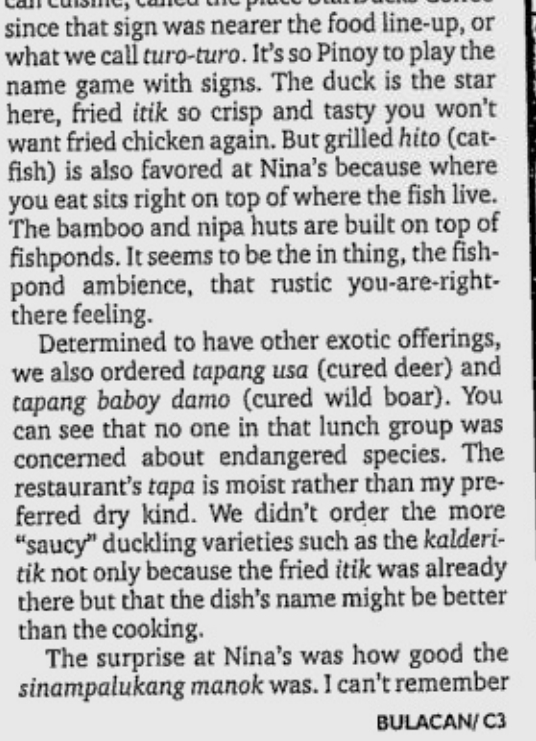
AFTER we had eaten the extra good fried *itik* (duckling) in Bulacan, we heard the news that there was bird flu in Calumpit. Instead of gagging, we laughed the bad news away and wondered how anything so good could be so bad for us. Besides, we didn't eat duck in Calumpit. It was on the road to San Miguel, one of those back ways that can make life easier for those sick of the traffic at Bulacan's main thoroughfares.

The place is called Nina's, but our guide, Dez Bautista, indefatigable promoter of Bulacan cuisine, called the place StarDucks Coffee since that sign was nearer the food line-up, or what we call *turo-turo*. It's so Pinoy to play the name game with signs. The duck is the star here, fried *itik* so crisp and tasty you won't want fried chicken again. But grilled *hito* (catfish) is also favored at Nina's because where you eat sits right on top of where the fish live. The bamboo and nipa huts are built on top of fishponds. It seems to be the in thing, the fishpond ambience, that rustic you-are-right-there feeling.

Determined to have other exotic offerings, we also ordered *tapang usa* (cured deer) and *tapang baboy damo* (cured wild boar). You can see that no one in that lunch group was concerned about endangered species. The restaurant's *tapa* is moist rather than my preferred dry kind. We didn't order the more "saucy" duckling varieties such as the *kalderitik* not only because the fried *itik* was already there but that the dish's name might be better than the cooking.

The surprise at Nina's was how good the *sinampalukang manok* was. I can't remember

BULACAN/ C3



SIGN of the times... so Pinoy

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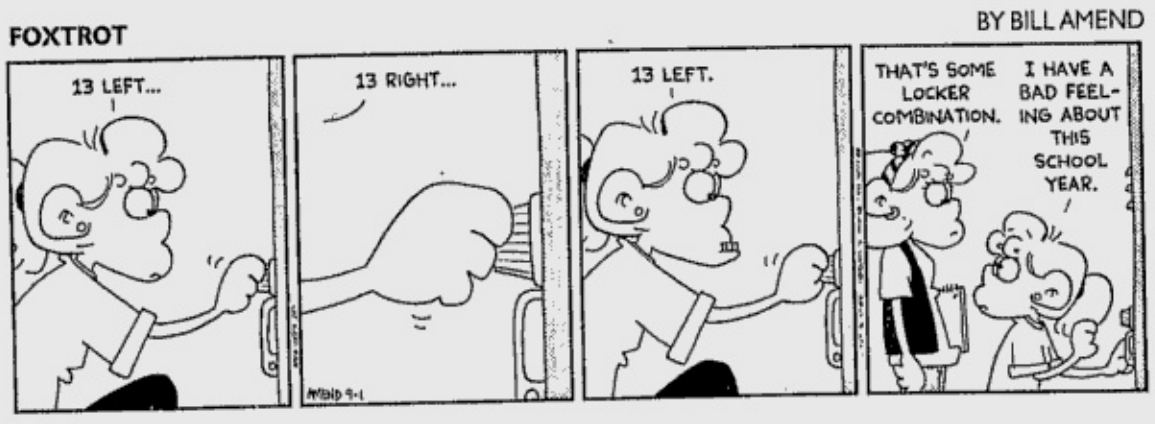
BY BILL AMEND



A. LIPIN
BY JESS ABRERA

MARVIN
BY TOM ARMSTRONG

PUGAD BABOY
BY P.M. JUNIOR

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ATOMO AND WEBOY
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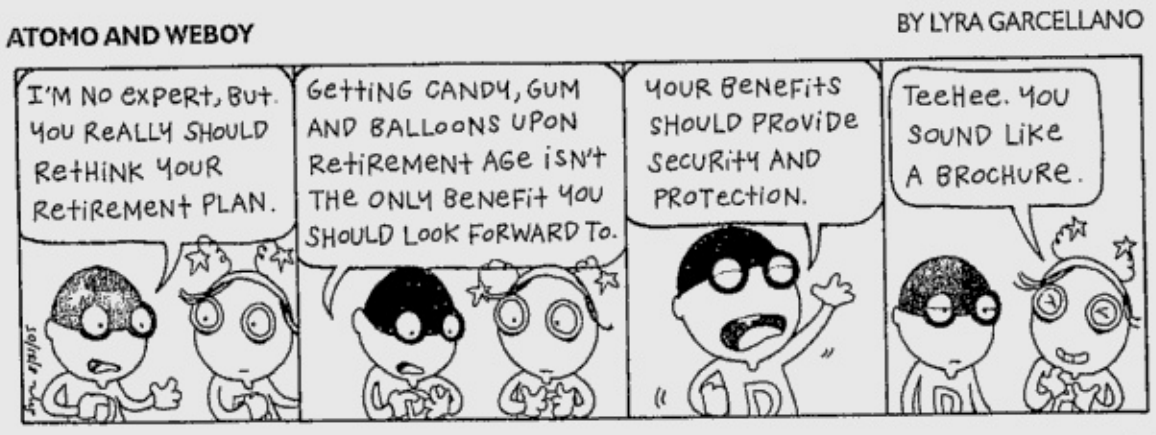


DIVINE COMEDY
BY STEVEN PABALINAS

SALAMIN
BY DARWIN PEREZ

BEN
BY DANIEL SHELTON

KIKO MACHINE
BY MANIX ABRERA

LOVEKNOTS
BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO

TULDOK
BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING

HOROSCOPE
BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're confident, even fearless. Obstacles are simply challenges for you. You work hard and play hard, too. You're sexually passionate. You approach life physically. You might be overwhelming to some people. (This amazes you.) The year ahead focuses on partnerships and close relationships.
Birthdate of: Dr. Phil McGraw, self-help expert; Gloria Estefan, singer; Barry Gibb, singer.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Now is the time to have important discussions with partners and friends. You feel very congenial to others, and they love you. Good feelings flow back and forth very easily now.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): This is a very easy day at work. Clients and co-workers are cooperative. You might make money through travel or dealing with other countries and people from other cultures.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): What a playful, romantic day! You're in the groove. You want to party, flirt, have fun and just please yourself. Great—what's wrong with that? (Work hard, party hard.)

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a fabulous day for real estate deals. It's also a good time to buy beautiful things for family members or for where you live. Whatever you do can improve your domestic scene in some way.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You feel unusually friendly to others today. Discussions with siblings are warm and cozy. Writers and salespeople easily make money through communicating with others today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): "There's money in them thar hills!" Trust your moneymaking ideas today. Even your expenditures could be profitable in the future. This is a wonderful day for finances, negotiations and making deals.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): You're very smooth, upbeat and happy today! Whatever, you're doing, you see the positive side of things. People will flock to you right now. Your encouraging outlook attracts them.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): In your heart, you feel compassion for those who have less than you do. Today you might spend money on charitable activities or religious art.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Friends and groups you might be interacting with are very reassuring and warm today. Any group activity will bring you joy and pleasure. It's a good day to form working partnerships as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Your career looks well! People respect you now. It looks like you've done your homework, which is why others are so ready to listen to you. (People love a winner.)

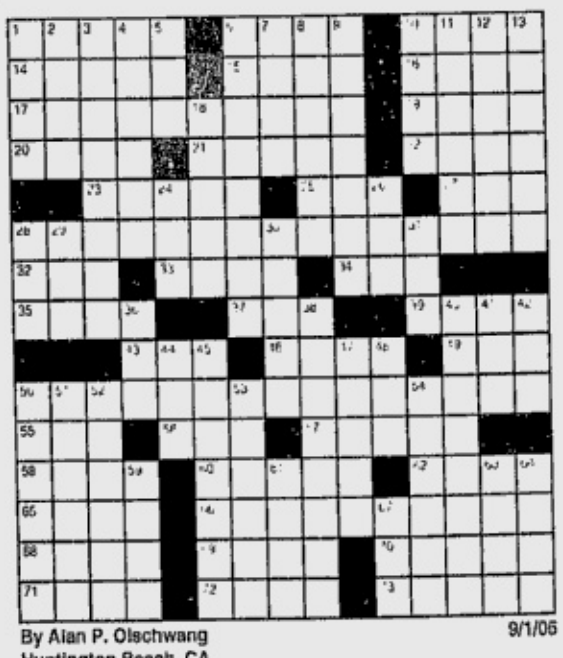
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Travel for pleasure looks so appealing now. Publishing, the media and higher education all hold lovely opportunities for you now. (These could be here, or they could be far away.)

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): I've said before that others are very beneficial to you this year. This is one of those days. Keep your pockets open!

DAILY CROSSWORD

ACROSS
1 Ship measure
6 Pedestal part
10 Blow to a wrist
14 For all to hear
15 Israeli airline
16 "__ Don't Preach"
17 Start of Katharine Hepburn quote
19 Middle Eastern leader
20 Striplings
21 Wisps
22 Garden invader
23 Memorize
25 Giant Mel
27 Sgt., e.g.
28 Part 2 of quote
32 A long, long time
33 Ooze
34 Top card
35 Four-posters
37 Noel mo
39 OK Corral participant
43 Mama __!
46 Corn holders?
49 Teachers' grp.
50 Part 3 of quote
55 Drinks counter
56 Prom attire
57 Mandolin's kin
58 Indigo plant
60 Attacked
62 Standstill
65 Place of confinement
66 End of quote
68 College credit
69 Swell!
70 Drinks
71 Without: Fr.
72 Sounds from the pound
73 Knight's suit

DOWN
1 Frozen fall
2 Actor Alan
3 Place with trees
4 Dusk
5 Old name of Tokyo
6 Poured off, as wine
7 Jai __
8 Lawyer Clarence
9 Fat substitute in chips
10 Gush
11 Bemoan
12 Each
13 Absolution
18 __ Mile Island
24 Govt. jurists
26 Muscle spasm
28 Openwork
29 Clod buster
30 Eyeglasses, informally
31 Peg for a golfer
36 Tex. campus
38 Engine additives
40 Unit of radiation wavelengths
41 Stephen or Chris
42 __ de deux
44 Gomez's cousin
45 Entertaining
47 Popeye's nemesis
48 Heavy imbiber
50 Calculating rack
51 Kind of republic
52 Start
53 Town near Concord, NH
54 Greek advisor at Troy
59 Gives permission to
61 Former Russian emperor
63 Greek drink
64 Jury member
67 TV schedule abbr.



By Alan P. Olschwang
Huntington Beach, CA
9/1/05

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

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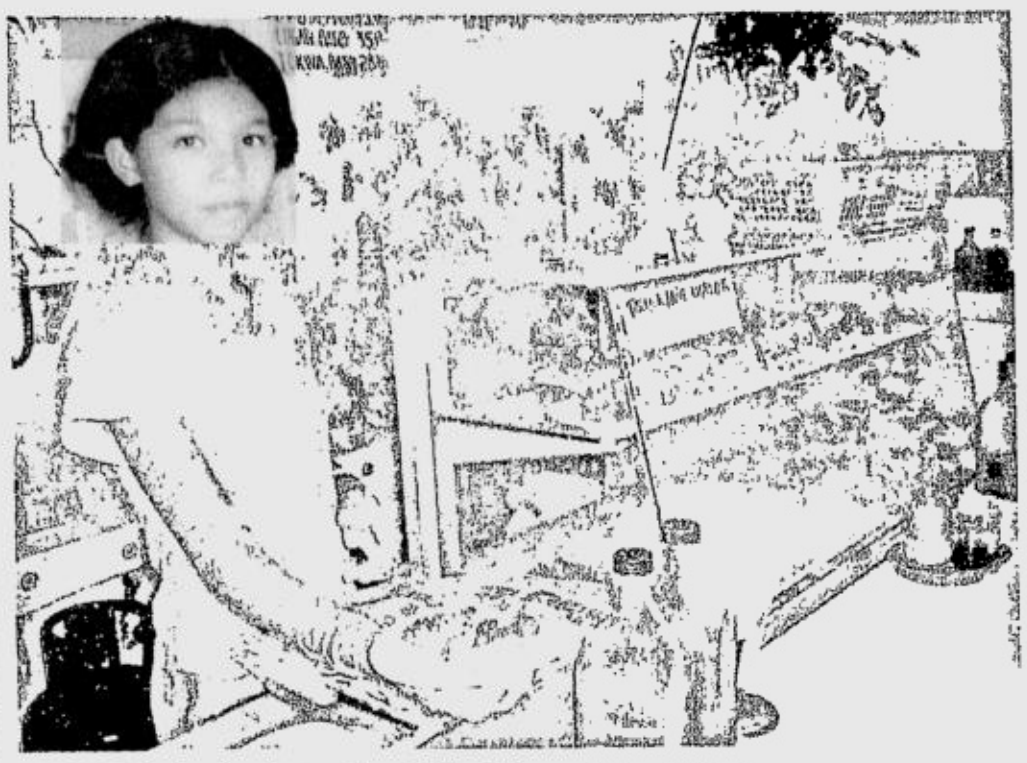
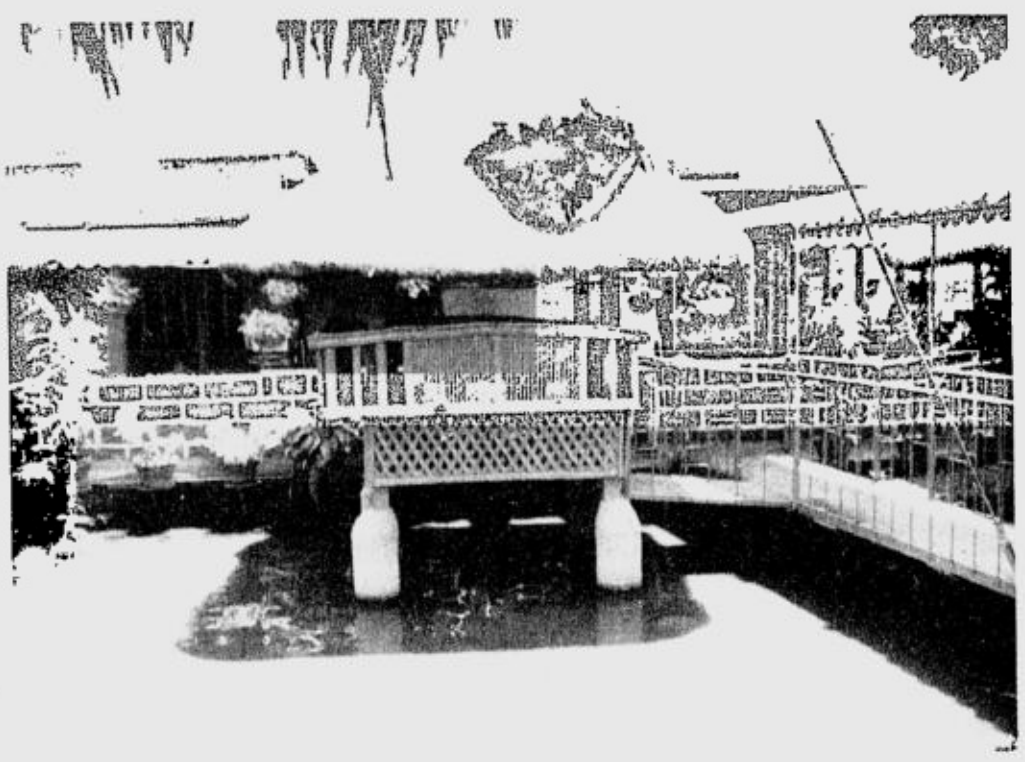
THE *TURO-TURO* section at Nina's features cooked food of grilled squid, pork barbecue, *pansit*, *ampalaya*, *kare-kare*, *hito* and barbecued chicken



CHOPPED *lechon* head as topping at Edison's Lugaw, Tokwa't Baboy



AT NINA'S you dine on top of the fishpond

Bulacan byroad binges

From page C1

STA MARIA *dinuguan* soured by tamarind

tasting a soup as good—the sourness was just right, the young tamarind leaves so plentiful and the chicken, probably native, so flavorful.

Little did we know that the tamarind would resurface later and that the experience would add a vital information to our knowledge of regional cooking. Bautista said that some parts of Bulacan, such as San Miguel, didn't produce vinegar and so the town used tamarind as souring agent. He insisted we taste the *dinuguan* at Sevilla's Sweets and I told him it tasted like *sinampalukan*. We were feeling giddy at having to eat right after the big lunch, and innards at that, but we told ourselves it was all part of the learning experience. Cholesterol, calories and fats are one's matriculation.

At Sevilla's Sweets, we consoled ourselves with *pastillas* and other delicacies over the news that some cabinet members had resigned and that more people were asking the President to resign. Just like tasting the *sampalok* and then the *pastillas*, a sour and sweet balancing act.

The trip to Bulacan also featured the *chicharon* of Santa Maria. Imagine store after store selling these crunchy, puffy pork rind, fat and fat with meat. One of the stores had locked in the hot chili taste within the *chicharon* so that you no longer needed to dip the pieces in chili-spiked vinegar. The other had several packers doing their quota for the day. The last stall visited had this huge *chicharon* piece, the one known as *pakpak* elsewhere, and which can become a party favorite.

Our touring van screeched to a halt on the way to San Miguel because Bautista saw the Edison Lugaw Tokwa't Baboy sign. He said this was where one could have *lugaw* topped with chopped up *lechon* head. We couldn't decide whether we were lucky or unlucky not to try the *lugaw* because there were only the remains of the *lechon* head. Outside, an improvised aquarium (a halved iron drum) held live *tilapia*. When ordered, the fish went straight to the charcoal griller.

It was Bautista's pleasure to let us discover as well small places which offered products only to be found there. At Fe's Minasa in Poblacion Bustos, cassava cookies are the specialty. They taste like *araro* or *uraro* (arrowroot cookies). And just to show everyone that this bakery keeps up with trends and the times, there is a sugar-free version. The diabetic with us was happy.

Again, the sign at Fe's Minasa should be mentioned. It said that the cassava cookie is a "priority product of Bulacan." I suppose they copied it from the "priority project" signs of politician so and so.

E-mail the author at pinoyfood04@yahoo.com.

Rainy days favorites

ASIAN FUSION AT CAFÉ ASTORIA
Café Astoria offers an Asian cornucopia of the finest dishes in dinner set menus prepared by executive chef Ferdie Ramos. Set menus are priced at P450+ per person. Café Astoria is at G/F of Astoria Plaza, 15 J. Escriva Drive, Ortigas Business District, Pasig City.

BEAT those rainy days by having a steaming bowl of Super Bowl of China's noodle soup or *congee*. Savor wanton, braised beef, wanton and beef brisket, BBQ *asado*, roast duck, soya chicken, pork chop and assorted seafood or *congee* topped with your choice of seafood, chicken, shrimp with egg, pork with century egg, roast duck, fish fillet or a combination of all these ingredients. Call the Super Delivery hotline at 7378888. Super Bowl of China's branches are located at Megastrip of SM Megamall; Jupiter Street in Makati City; Glorietta 4 in Ayala Center; Chefs Avenue in Festival Mall, Alabang; 2/L SM City North Edsa; Eastwood City Walk 2 in Libis; G/F SM City in Fairview; at The Promenade in Greenhills; 3/L Gateway Mall in Araneta Center, Cubao; Bluewave, Marikina; and SM San Lazaro, Manila.

DINING OUT

MAKATI Shangri-La's Circles Event Cafe presents the flavors of Morocco, Turkey and Saudi Arabia in the Middle Eastern Culinary Exposition on Sept. 15-25. Buffet diners who sample this cuisine at Asian Theater Kitchen will receive a raffle ticket for every visit and will get a chance to win a four-night stay at the superior room of Shangri-La's Barr Al Jissah Resort and Spa, Muscat with buffet breakfast and roundtrip tickets for two to Muscat, Oman. Call 8138888.

THE SULO Hotel's Diwata Cocktail Lounge serves wines, coolers, aperitifs, vodka, gin, rum, tequila, cocktails and non-alcoholic drinks. Happy Hour, set at 5:30-8 p.m., offers free *pica-pica* buffet, 50-percent off on standard drinks and 25-percent off on premium drinks. Call 9245051 to 71.

MANILA Diamond Hotel's Kohikan features Lemon Crumble Cheese Cake as its Cake of the Month. French pastry chef Guillaume Bonnety adds excitement to the classic cheesecake by giving it a refreshing taste of lemon and crunchy cookie crumble crust. Other pastry selections are Honey Madeleine, Chocolate Eclair and different flavors of Macaroons. Call 5283000.

Celebrities have found a new haunt

GRILL Asia, which specializes in Asian comfort food updated to reflect current eating and health trends, has been drawing a respectable share of celebrity diners on Tomas Morato, the nearest entertainment and commercial center to two major broadcasting networks.

The restaurant strip in Quezon City has been a natural destination for celebrities wanting a meal or snack during break from or after work.

Celebrity diners cited the quality of food, fine service, as well as well-appointed dining area reflecting contemporary Asian lines and furnishings.

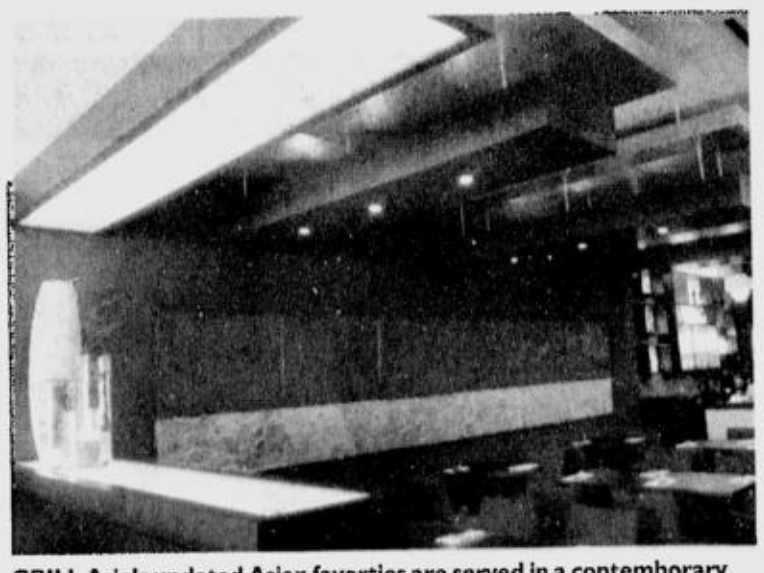
They included Star Circle Quest runner-up Sandara Park, GMA-7 young star Chynna Ortaleza, soap opera star John Lloyd Cruz, comedienne Toni Gonzaga of television's "Wazzup, Wazzup," Cesar Montano and wife Sunshine Cruz and Pinoy Pop Superstar finalist Michael Garcia.

Mark Gil, who brought his family, found the prices reasonable—six skewers of Malay Chicken, barbecue marinated in the house-blended satay sauce and served with peanut sauce for only P125. Former First Lady Imelda Marcos enjoyed the Vietnamese fresh spring roll dipped in *nuoc cham*, a basic sauce dip equivalent to *patis*.

Amanda Griffin, as well as Patricia Javier, was partial to seafood curry—seafood initially char-grilled then complemented by coconut cream with fragrant Thai green curry.

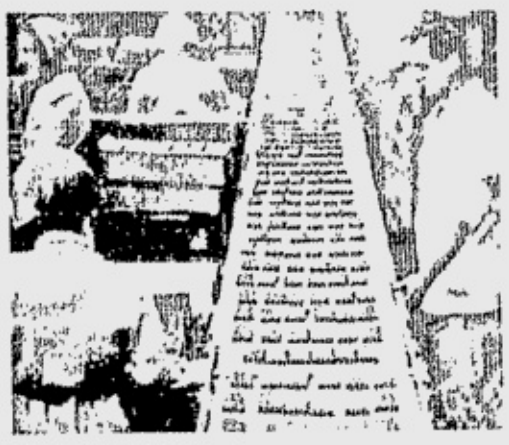
But the United-States educated chief operating officer Kervin Valero, who aims to present familiar Asian dishes in healthier forms, has trained the staff to respect the privacy of celebrity guests. At the same time, he expects the staff to treat regular diners the same way they do celebrities.

Located at the corner of Tomas Morato and Don Alejandro Roces Avenue, Grill Asia caters for special occasions, changing the regular Asian motif of its interiors to suit the special occasion. Call 4112742.



GRILL Asia's updated Asian favorties are served in a contemporary Asian setting by Isabel Berenguer-Asuncion

Something sweet computers make



CADBURY Dairy Milk blocks emerge from the cooler to be wrapped.

PRODUCING a Cadbury chocolate may seem like a simple matter of choosing the right ingredients but it is actually a highly sophisticated, computer-controlled process. Cadbury designs its own new specialist machinery to meet its production specifications.

Though it produces a variety of chocolates, the two main types are Cadbury Dairy Milk and Cadbury Bournville plain chocolate.

Cadbury set up Bournville to house its production. At Bournville, windows and every nook and cranny are swept clean everyday to ensure optimum sanitation. Cadbury also makes sure the people who make chocolates are healthy.

Production starts at the Chirk cocoa factory, which operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, producing Cadbury's basic ingredients.

Some 50,000 tons of premium cocoa beans are processed annually. The beans are then sorted, cleaned and roasted, then broken down into small pieces until they become thick chocolate-colored liquid.

At the milk processing factory, fresh, liquid full cream milk is cooked with sugar and condensed to a thick liquid. Cocoa mass is added, making a rich, creamy, chocolate liquid and then evaporated to make milk chocolate crumb. This will produce the smoothness, gloss and snap of every Cadbury chocolate.

You might be cooking a winner

THE FAMILY recipes that you're turning into favorite dishes at reunions may be exactly what we want. We are looking for recipes that use traditional Filipino techniques and ingredients. Send us your recipes and, if chosen, you can win P2,000 worth of SM Supermarket gift checks, a gift from Imarflex or a class of choice at the Reggie Aspiras School of Culinary Arts.

Tell us who in your family first cooked and served the recipe; how many generations have cooked it; when it is usually cooked and served. Include a photo and your name, address, daytime telephone number and e-mail address, if any.

Entries should be mailed or delivered to PDI Family Recipe Contest, c/o Lifestyle, Philippine Daily Inquirer, 1098 Chino Roces Ave., Makati City 1263, or e-mailed to **recipes@inquirer.com.ph**. For contest details, e-mail lifestyle@inquirer.com.ph

When bamboo is edible

PDI FAMILY RECIPE CONTEST

By Rancelle C. Gonzaga

I WAS born and have always lived in Laguna, but my father's family was originally from the Visayas. The Visayans are known for using bamboo shoots in their viands. I guess this is because bamboo is abundant in that part of the Philippines.

My father loved to serve his children different dishes with bamboo shoots. He pickled the shoots or simply used them as ingredient in any "bulanglang." The dish we liked best was bamboo shoot with *buko*.

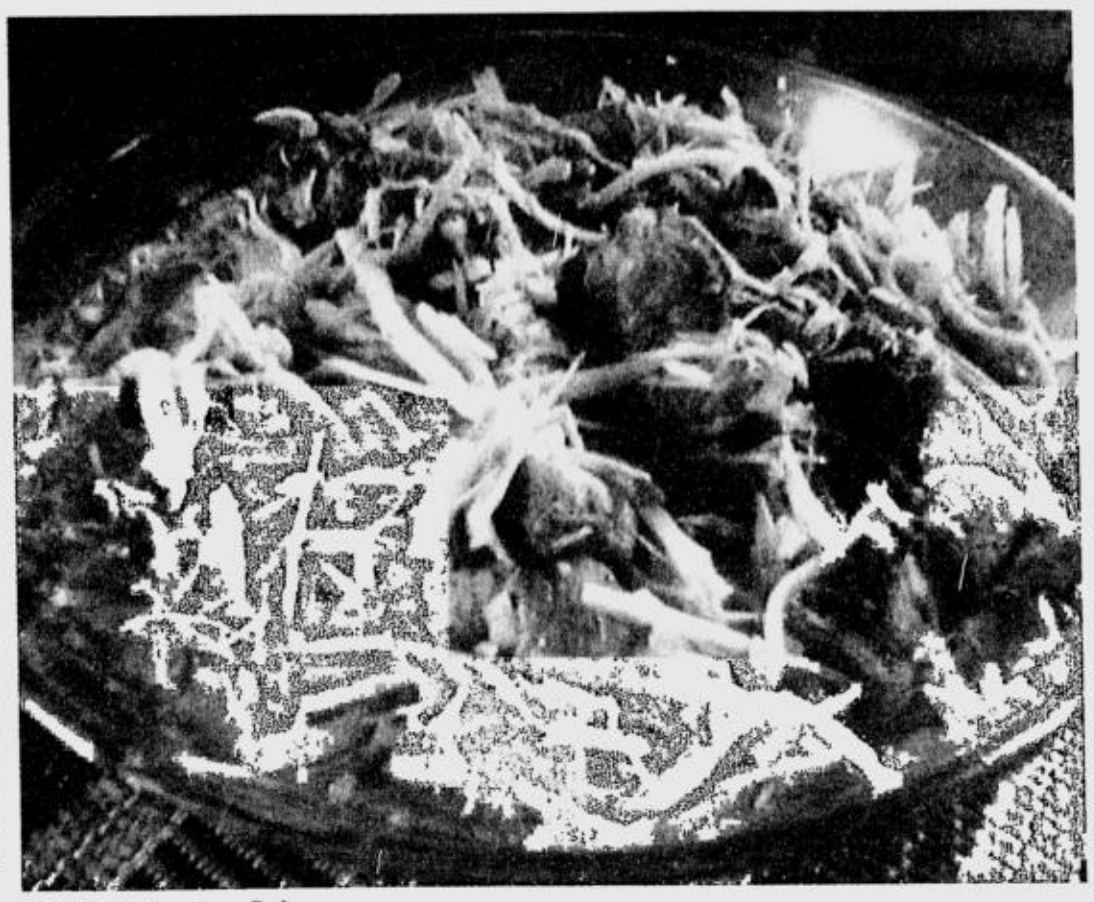
According to my father, their grandfather used to cook this dish during the rainy season, when bamboo would produce new sprouts.

Everybody in the family knows how to prepare this dish, including me, a fourth generation member. It is very simple and easy to cook, and the ingredients are readily available.

Bamboo Shoot con Buko

½ k bamboo shoot, sliced, blanched in hot water and drained
½ k chicken (*pata* or pig's leg may be substituted), cleaned and cut into serving pieces
1 onion, sliced
1 tbsp pounded garlic
Achuete for color
2 c chicken broth
2 c buko meat, scraped
Lemongrass
Salt to taste
Oil for frying

Sauté onion and garlic in oil. Add chicken. Cook until tender. Pour 2 cups of chicken broth and *achuete* coloring. Simmer for 10 minutes. Add bamboo shoot, *buko* meat and lemongrass. Season with salt. Serve hot.



BAMBOO Shoot con Buko

Oops, sorry

IN ONE of last week's winning recipes, Eggplants a la Bistek, the procedure did not say what to do with the calamansi juice and the 5 tbsp of soy sauce. Here's the corrected recipe:

"Extract juice from calamansi. Set aside. Mince or finely chop garlic. Slice onion into rings. Set aside into half-portions. Cut eggplant into halves; then into diagonals or, if round variety, into eight wedges. Heat oil until smoking. Add garlic and half onion rings until light brown. Add sliced eggplant, cook and stir continuously until wilted for three to five minutes. Cover for a minute to sweat. Add calamansi juice and soy sauce and cook for five more minutes. Sprinkle sugar, stir, cover and cook for one more minute. Transfer to a platter or wide-mouth bowl. Top or garnish with remaining half portion onion rings."

Tapas and flamenco

THE FINEST in Spanish cuisine meets the best in Spanish guitar music for enchanting evenings full of deep emotion and sweet old-world romance, all at Casa Armas this month.

As your palate samples the exquisite flavors of classic taverna-style tapas and other Casa Armas specialties, let your eyes and ears feast on Spain's most-loved form of art, care of Manila's finest Flamenco instrumentalists from Centro Flamenco. The spotlight shines on the instrument that has captivated audiences throughout the centuries, from the old world to the new. It is brought to life today by the country's most consummate artists.

This musical festival gives a peek into the pulse of authentic Spanish tradition and culture.

The magic happens every Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday of September, 7-9 p.m., at Casa Armas branches in Greenbelt and The Podium. Take advantage of a full month of the finest pleasures as Casa Armas once again breaks the boundaries of traditional Spanish dining. Authentic food and music bring guests excitement in every way possible, for a feel of Spain that one will never forget.

A flamenco serenade that complements the finest dishes—that is Casa Armas' brand of authentic dining and complete pleasure.

Venues for the event are Casa Armas Tapas Bar y Restaurante at Greenbelt 3 on Sept. 1 -15, and Casa Armas at The Podium on Sept. 17-29.

For reservations, in-house functions or catering, visit Taberna de Casa Armas at 2/F Paseo Center, Paseo de Roxas Avenue corner Sedeno Street. Also visit or call Casa Armas at 3/L Greenbelt 3, Ayala Center (tel. 7574961); 132 Jupiter St., Bel-Air Village, Makati City (tel. 8973542); and The Podium at 18 ADB Ave., Ortigas Center, Mandaluyong City (tel. 6873663).

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CABALEN at 19: Younger, brighter /D4

North face for hotel café

CERTAINLY, many good things are happening in the city of stars!

The Mandarin Oriental comes to Quezon City. Their café and deli will open tomorrow at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center, Cubao. As Helmut Gaisberger, Mandarin Oriental's general manager, puts it, "The café and deli bolsters the hotel's reach to customers in the north side of the metro."

The café, beautifully put together by Sonia Santiago-Olivares, gives you a feel of being in an Oriental Village. Equally impressive are the lighting fixtures and their vibrant collection of tabletop amenities, atop which all your deli favorites will be served—your beloved gourmet sandwiches, homemade ice cream, wines and cheeses. There to greet you as well is a whole new a la carte menu filled with many Asian favorites, such as Hainanese Chicken, Barbecued Duck Noodles, even *puto bumbong, bibingka* and *churros*!

Just adjacent to the MO Café is Oasis, an al fresco café set in a circular atrium of lush greens and ponds, also owned and operated

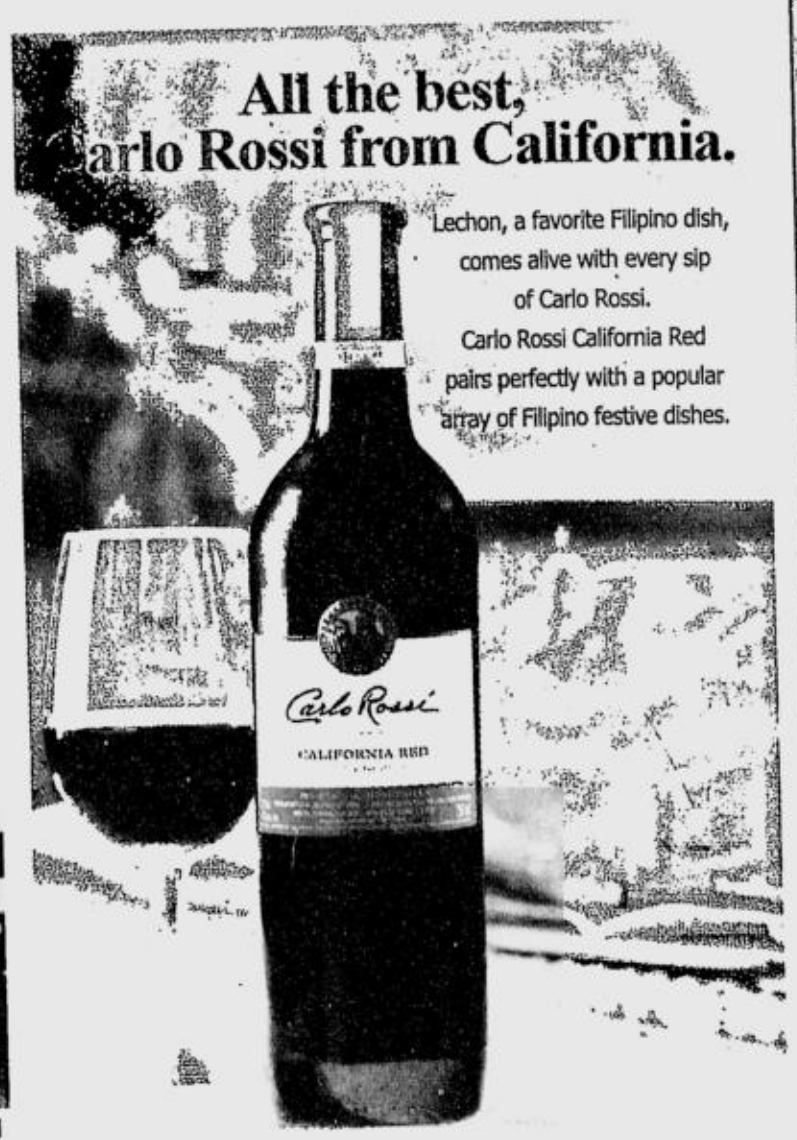
NORTH/ D3

KITCHEN RESCUE

Reggie Aspiras

What's happening in QC, where to buy moon cakes, what to do with egg whites—KR has the answers

MANDARIN café and deli gives visitors a feel of being in an Oriental Village.



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1. SEPT. 5 - 9 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - MASTER COURSE IN CAKE DECORATING - P10,500.
Learn the practical & easy method of making icing flowers, borders, scrolls & strings, cake designing, sugar molding, color flow, color technique, wedding cake assembly. NEXT SCHED : OCT. 3 - 7
2. SEPT. 10 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - PIES & CAKES FOR DIABETIC - P3,000.
Flaky (kalaskis) Empanada, Coffee Cheese Cake, Chocolate Nut Pie, Pineapple Flower Cake, Lemonpie NEXT SCHED: OCT. 8
3. SEPT. 12 - 15 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - ADVANCED GUMPASTE & FOREIGN METHOD - P10,500.
New method on gumpaste, flowers, objects, marzipan, quilting swags and ribbons, ribbon insertion, finest string works, lace pieces, fondant, chocolate fondant. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 10 - 13
4. SEPT. 14 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW METHOD ON FONDANT - P4,500.
Using lace mats, New Rolling Pin w/ Designs, Swags & Ribbons,Non-Stick boards w/ Flowers & Veiners & Quilting. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 12
5. SEPT. 17 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE BAKING 1 - P3,000.
Banana, Apple Almond, Bars, Carrot Cake, Choco Nut Cake, Whole Wheat Bread, Raisin Bread. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 15
6. SEPT. 19 - 23 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - BASIC COMMERCIAL BAKING - P12,500. (for whole courses)
P2,500 - SEPT. 19 - Cakes: plain, mocha, choco, orange chiffon cakes, pound cake, sponge cake, moist choco cake.
P2,500 - SEPT. 20 - Cakes & Roll: malacañang roll, chocolate roll, brownies, pineapple upside-down, custard cake, mamom.
P2,750 - SEPT. 21 - Breads: pan de sal, dinner rolls, buns, pan de coco, ensaymada, honey bread & white bread.
P2,500 - SEPT. 22 - Pies: Buko pie, custard pie, pineapple pie, apple pie, mango pie, caramel tart.
P2,750 - SEPT. 23 - Pastries & Cookies: almond tart, San Nicolas cookies, camachile, oatmeal cookies, lengua de gato, coconut macaroons. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 17 -21
7. SEPT. 19 - 23 // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - COLD PORCELAIN FLOWER COURSES WITH PORCELAIN RECIPE - P4,500.
(Each set is lesson covered for one day) - a) Sampaguita, Sunflower, Waling-waling; b) Rose, Cattleya, Cymbidium; c) Magnolia, Gerbera, Lilies; d) Open Rose, Hydrangeas, Grapes. *COLD PORCELAIN DOLLS by appointment* NEXT SCHED: OCT. 17 - 21
8. SEPT. 24 // 8:00AM - 12:00NN - SUGAR FREE 2 - P3,000.
Brownie Supreme, Choco Chiffon, Orange Chiffon, Banana Pecan, Cookies, Spiced Raisin Cookies, Chewy Golden Cookies. Baking for Diabetics. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 22
9. SEPT. 26 - 30 // 8:00AM - 5:30PM - SPECIAL BAKING - P13,500.
For whole courses or Learn to make 30 Kinds of special cakes from around the world. Each cake has a different icing & decoration. NEXT SCHED: OCT. 24 - 28
10. // 8:00AM - 5:00PM - NEW COURSE & LATEST GELATIN FLOWERS W/O SUGAR - P3,000. BY APPOINTMENT

International Cake Exploration Societe
Avelina C. Florendo
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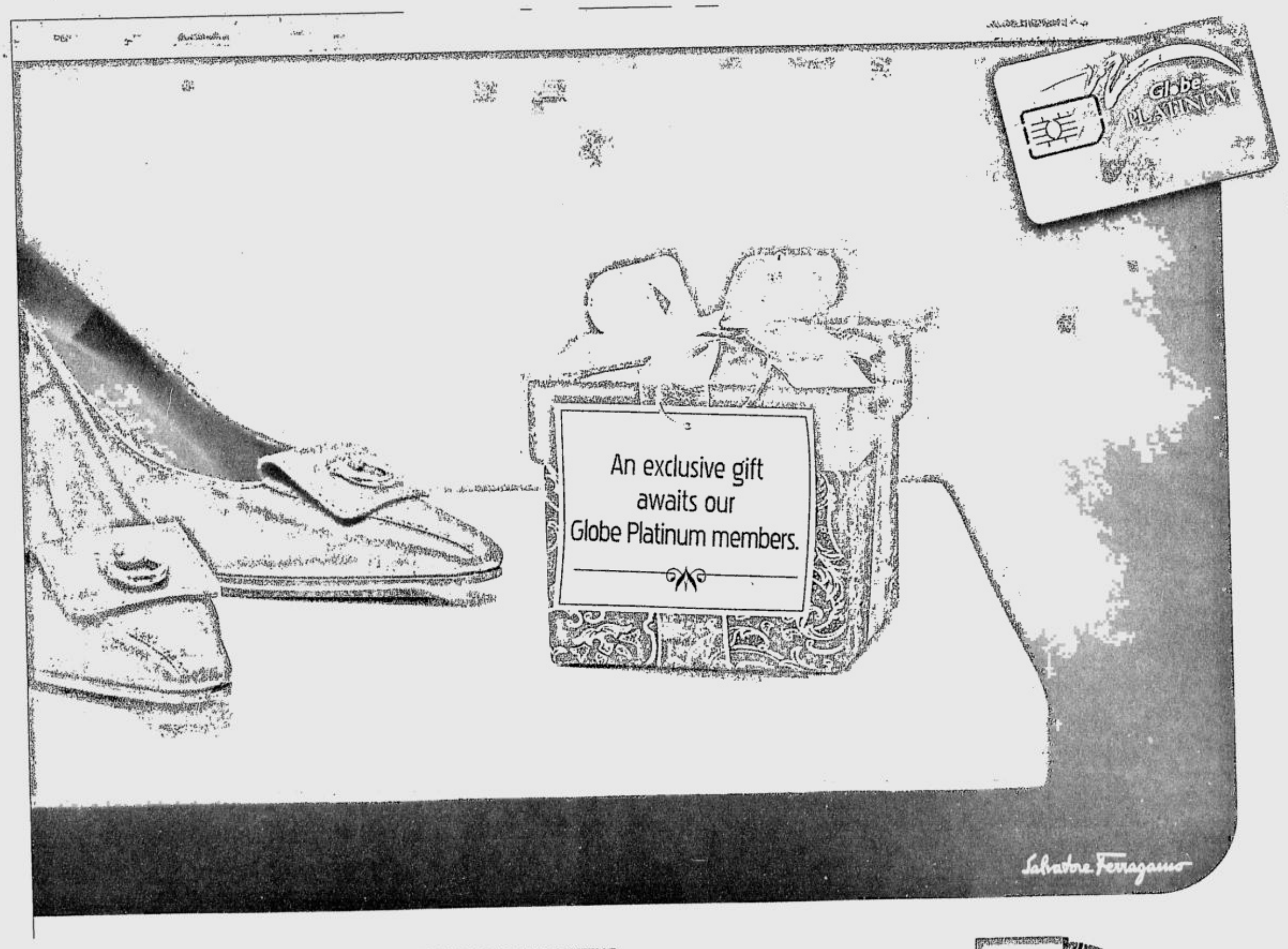
PEOTRACO
CONFECTIONER POWDERED SUGAR
"THE OFFICIAL CONFECTIONER SUGAR" USED BY MRS. FLORENDO



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With Globe Platinum and Salvatore Ferragamo, get a free 30ml bottle of Incanto perfume or a free silk pouchette with a minimum purchase of P8,000 (worth of regular items) at Salvatore Ferragamo stores, from September 1-15, 2005.
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Send and receive e-mail on your cellphone while on the go. To know more about this service, call the Platinum hotline at 730-1888.

Deadline for SSS loans amnesty is Sept. 30

MEMBERS of the Social Security System (SSS) with unpaid short-term loans have only until Sept. 30 to settle their obligations without penalties.

The reminder came from SSS president Corazon de la Paz, who implemented the one-year amnesty program that allowed delinquent members to settle their loans without penalties.

Short-term loans cover salary, calamities, emergencies and different educational needs under the following categories study-now-pay-later, vocational/technical, student and Y2K loans.

The amnesty program, according to de la Paz, also allowed SSS members to make a one-time payment to settle their obligations, or they could choose to pay in installment.

Thousands of members had already been benefited by the program, she said. "SSS had already collected over P211 million from 72,000 members who availed of the amnesty."

For more information, call the SSS hotlines: 9206446 to 55 (Metro Manila); 032-2342053 (Cebu); and 082-2277273 (Davao). Or call SSS headquarters in Quezon City at 02-9206401. Members can also visit the SSS website at www.sss.gov.ph.

Letters from readers

Richard E. Struempler of Doctors Laboratory, Inc., Valdosta, GA 31602, on the subject of eating-out horrors: "...When you consider the millions of meals served on a daily basis, I think, for the most part, people still do a pretty good job. One of the best ways (to) protest bad food and bad service is with your feet. Leave and let management know why you are leaving and remind them that a satisfied customer tells three people, a dissatisfied customer tells 10.

THE CONSUMER

Marietta Velasco Giron

"Proper education of food service workers in the basics of service and sanitation is critical, but this must be also supported by management (who must have the) desire to have delighted customers. Quality is not expensive but lack of quality is."

Shirley de las Alas of Ayala, Alabang, mentioned in her e-mail how some restaurant servers talk in front of food without covering their mouth. She said: "This is one of the reasons I patronize fast food chains. The food comes to you all nicely wrapped or packed. Shouldn't we have a law that will require food handlers to wear a mask at all times when they are at work? And does anyone of those hotshot health inspectors ever check if the toilets of food handlers have the necessary soap, water and clean towels?"

Concerned consumer Monette G. of Ayala, Makati City, forwarded an e-mail with details of two incidents of food poisoning at a fast food chain. A daughter of a manager at Ayala Land Sales reportedly became seriously ill hours after eating at a fast food chain in Sta. Ana, Manila. Doctors attributed the problem to spoiled chicken sauce.

Another kid, according to her, suffered food poisoning from eating spoiled spaghetti.

She warned: "Before eating, especially if you have kids with you, make it a point to sniff and taste the sauce (served) with the chicken."

Unsolicited text, again!

Cesar Reyes sent us this text through Globetxtm: "I received a service message from Globe this a.m. about a Java premium game (P50)-Guinness Book of World Records. That message/advertisement had several buttons namely: (1) Submit (2) Promo Mechanics (3) Skip (4) Game Info. I opened 2 and 4 to get the overview of the game. I did not dare open (1). I know it's the download button. When I opened the Skip button *biglang na* download *ang* game. That Skip button is a download button in disguise. That's highway robbery."

We forwarded a copy of his complaint to the customer service center of Globe and got the following reply from Pinky E. Torres of channel management-web service division:

"One of our customer service specialists, Shiela Sion, has already spoken to Cesar Reyes and explained to him the mechanics of the service. Case closed, thanks!"

Subscriber Reyes sent this e-mail: "I thank Globe customer service for the speedy action. I also got my P50 back!"

Praises for good product

Kathie Cu (katz8828@yahoo.com) shares this tip about a security-software for cellular phones. She wrote: "This security software (bulldog), available in the Philippines, is... user-friendly. It does not only secure the phone but it also protects its data and protects the owner from unwanted callers and texters. I am using it in my Nokia 6600."

She said to test if the product worked, she asked cell phone technicians at Greenhills to try to copy the same software. The technicians couldn't do it, which proved that the software was pirate-proof.

The inventor is a Filipino. Cu said, "The maker's website is www.boogs.ph and I hope we support this product for it's something that we Filipinos can be proud of."

E-mail mvgiron07@yahoo.com.

New branch

Super Bowl of China marked recently its fifth anniversary by opening its 11th outlet in SM San Lazaro Mall in Manila.

New branches were opened recently at the Gateway Mall, Araneta Center and Bluewave, Marikina.

Manila Mayor Lito Atienza's son, Kim, cut the ceremonial ribbon during the restaurant's opening that coincided with the inauguration of the Mall.

The restaurant also delivers. Call 7378888.

Super Bowl of China is owned and operated by Big Buddha Restaurant, Inc., which also operates Big Buddha Restaurant in Greenbelt 3.

PETER Pan Peanut Butter is a healthy high-protein diet. Made from the freshest peanuts, it is sugar-free so suitable for people who watch their diets. Peter Pan Peanut Butter is exclusively distributed by Benby Enterprises.

HUNT'S Pudding Snack Pack is made from non-fat milk and has nutrients like calcium and carbohydrates. It is available in six flavors: chocolate, chocolate fudge, chocolate marshmallow, milk choco variety, caramel swirl and chocolate fat-free. Hunt's Pudding Snack Pack is exclusively distributed by Benby Enterprises and available in leading supermarkets nationwide.

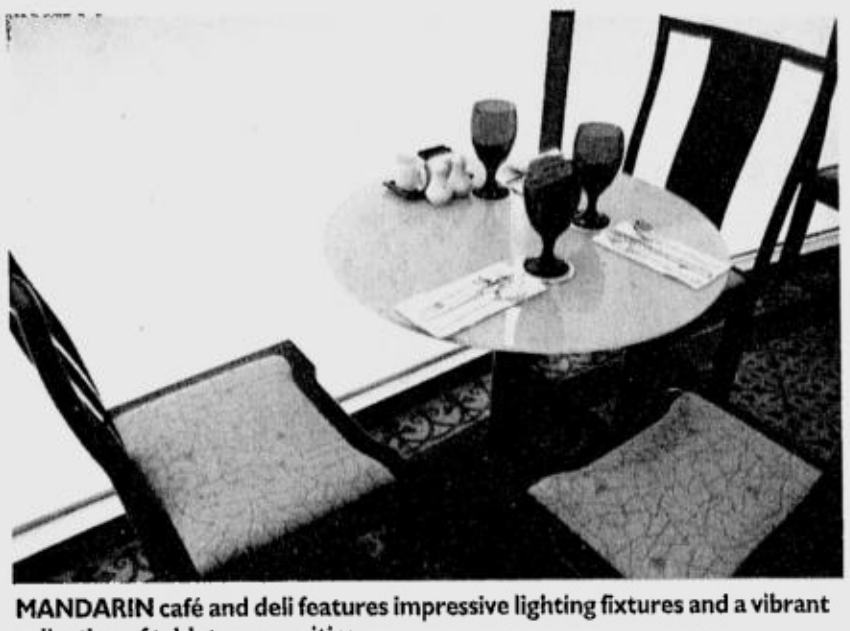
North face for hotel café

From page D1

by the Mandarin Oriental. This is a great venue to book for private functions (tel. 9135505).

On we go to other equally interesting things... For "home-cooked" style meals, try Quattro. They serve real crispy *liempo* and baked fish fillet with loads of garlic that melts in your mouth! A must for the palate that longs for simple yet delicious comfort food! Quattro is at 96 Timog Ave., QC (tel. 0917-8443483).

For those craving for a taste of Singapore or at least two of its most famous treats, you must go to Kopi Roti. This is the closest you'll ever get to eating Kaya Toast (Kaya-jam made from eggs and coconut) and coffee or tea Kopi Tiam style (brewed coffee/ tea, laced with condensed milk) without leaving the country. Kopi Roti is at 186 Tomas Morato St., QC. (tel. 4141754).



MANDARIN café and deli features impressive lighting fixtures and a vibrant collection of tabletop amenities.

Pining for moon cakes

I would like to ask where can we buy the best moon cakes in town. Thanks!

JEFFREY FULGAR,
BF Resort Village, Las Piñas

There are many imported ones available in Bee Tin. But among those that are locally made, Mr. Lu's is the best! The filling he uses is comparable only to the delicious Hong Kong moon cakes. There are many fillings to choose from, however. My favorite remains to be Lin Yoong (lotus seed). Expect his moon cakes to be a bit more expensive as quality always comes at a price and you must call in advance to order.

Mr. Lu also happens to be the best Chinese culinary instructor in the country, so if you want to learn authentic Chinese food, he's the man! Call 7041296 / 7358189.

Some added info on The Moon Cake Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival: It always falls on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar. For this year, it's Sept. 18. Moon cakes were first used in the Yuan dynasty when China was ruled by the Mongols. The fallen leaders from the Sung dynasty, not wanting to submit themselves to the Mongols, discovered that putting messages inside moon cakes would be a good way for them to pass on messages for their planned rebellion. On the evening of the Moon Festival, the rebels overthrew the government, thus ushering in the Ming Dynasty. In a nutshell, moon cakes are eaten to commemorate this legend along with many others.

Ways with white

What are your suggestions on what to do with all the egg whites left if you will use only the yolks? Thanks.

LINDA REYES

• You can use leftover eggwhites to make healthy omelets! Use them as you would a whole egg.

• Use them to clean the leaves of your plants. Makes them real nice, shiny and *baho*! But makes them look so good and healthy! Use cotton balls for this and only do so for hard, firm, shiny leaf types.

• As beauty treatment: Someone told me once to put egg white on my hair to make it shiny and leave it until it dries out. A total disaster! I smelled so awful! Or how about an egg-white facial? This is done by working up a lather using pure slightly beaten egg whites, letting it stay on your face for five minutes then rinsing it off with water. I have not tried this though they say it works, and has been a Swedish thing for centuries.

• And, of course, to make meringue!

Do you have a meringue recipe *na puwede ring pang* business?

MARA,
Iriga

To Mara and Linda, this one's for you!

Meringue

4 large egg whites, room temperature
1/4 tsp cream of tartar
Pinch of salt
1 c sugar
1 tsp extract, vanilla lemon etc...
Few drops of food coloring, optional

Line cookie sheet with Silpat or parchment paper. If using parchment, slightly spray with oil. Preheat oven 200° F. Beat egg whites with cream of tartar until frothy. Add half of the sugar gradually. Continue to beat until soft peaks.

Add pinch of salt and continue to add remaining sugar gradually until stiff peaks. Fold in flavoring and extract. Put mixture into piping bag with a tip of choice (star tips work well) and pipe out discs about 2-3 inches in diameter. Bake meringues for approximately two hours on the lowest rack of your oven to avoid browning.

Finished product should be dry and crisp. Store in air-tight containers.

For comments or suggestions, text 0917-8399888.

Classes on Filipino dishes, children's meals and catering

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts is conducting the following classes:

Sept. 2—Fancy Sinigang (all new)—Sea Bass Sigang with Mixed Citrus, Patang Sigang sa Bayabas, Angus Belly Sigang sa Sampalok, Pork Sparerib Sinigang with Taro, side dishes, relishes and condiments

Sept. 3—Pizza and Pasta Combinations 2005 (all new)—Sausage Pasta with Sauerkraut Pizza, Pizza Margherita with Lamb Shank Pasta, Lobster Bisque Pasta with Clam and Mussel Pizza, Oriental Beef Brisket with Egg Noodles and Peking Duck Pizza, Easy Pizzas from Scratch

Sept. 5—Steamed! (all new)—Steamed Mussel Bucket with dipping sauces, Steamed Cod Chinese Style with Plums, Whole Steamed Bok Choi- Wrapped Bass with dipping sauce, Lemon Grass Crabs, Sweet Miso Salmon with Soba, side dishes

Sept. 7—Gourmet Sushi Party—Revival 2002—Innovative ways of preparing sushi, over 15 variations, Sushi Cake, Wrapped Bonbon Sushi, etc.

Call 9289296, 9273008, 6335162, 6474744, 0917-8399888.

Saturday classes for young chefs

Children who want to learn how to cook can join Vicky Veloso-Barrera's Tiny Kitchen Saturday classes.

The morning session is at 9-11 a.m. and the afternoon session, 2-4 p.m. Children aged 4-6 learn two dishes per session while those aged 7 and up learn four.

All classes are conducted at Veloso-Barrera's Quezon City home. Only seven children are accepted per class. Call 4102279 or 0916-5165035.

Catering business management training

MB&G/ProActive is conducting the Managing a Catering Business Seminar-Workshop, Sept. 12-16, 1-5 p.m., at Eastwood City, Libis, Quezon City.

The five-day training will include lectures and hands-on workshops on planning the menu, equipment and staffing; cost control; room arrangements, among others. MB&G/ProActive has been training food service executives and hospitality business owners since 1989.

Call 6871787 or 0915-4315375 for registration and inquiries.

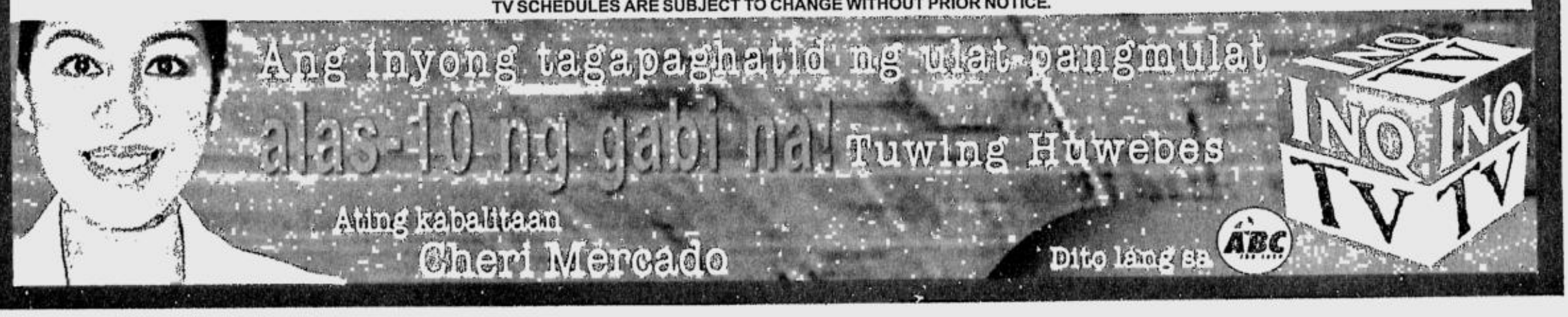
UCC CAFÉ recently opened at Westgate Center on Alabang-Zapote Road, Filinvest Corporate City. Known for its coffee concoctions brewed using the traditional Japanese siphon method, UCC offers Western and Japanese dishes from breakfast to dinner. Call 8076729.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
TV GUIDE
Dito ka Suntok 2005

ClickTheCity.com

Channel	2:30PM	3:00PM	3:30PM	4:00PM	4:30PM	5:00PM	5:30PM	6:00PM	6:30PM	7:00PM	7:30PM	8:00PM	8:30PM	9:00PM	9:30PM	10:00PM	10:30PM	11:00PM	11:30PM
NBN					Teledyanyo	Tinig ng Bayan (Live)						Teledyanyo		Tinig ng Bayan (Live)					
ABS-CBN 2	Kapamilya Cinema				Pasion de Amor	Mr. Bean	Naruto	Opids	Motor Garden Season 2	TV Patrol World	Mga Anghel Na Walang Langit	Ikaw Ang Lahat Sa Akin	Kampanerang Kuba	Pinoy Big Brother	Green Rose	Maalala Mo Kaya			Insider
ABC 5			EZ Shop		World Pool Championshp				Sentro	Jones Cup					Big News	Inq TV		ESPN Golf - Senior PGA Championships	
GMA 7	Kung Mamahalin Mo Lang Ako	Now and Forever	Hotstar	Shaman King	Slam Dunk	All For Love		24 Oras		Extra Challenge		Dama	Encantadia	Sugo	Atic Cat	Magpakailanman			Saksi
RPN 9	TV Shopping		Defenders Of The Earth	Hey Arnold!	As Told By Ginger	Wild Thornberries	Sponge Bob	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	WWE Smackdown		Dateline Specials		The Grid		Newswatch Now	Video Hit Parade	Kasanggga Mo Ang Langit	Police Hour
IBC 13		EZ Shop		EZ Shop		Home Shopping Network	IBC Express Balita	Pangarap Kong Jackpot		MTV		ME TV		Boxing		King Of Adventure	IBC News Tonite	MTV	
SBN 21		New Life TV Shop		New Life TV Shop				EZ Shop				Oras Ng Himala		Oras ng Katotohanan		Superline Tv Shopping		Sheperds Voice	
Studio 23								Batman Beyond	Beyblade	Wazzup Wazzup	Birds Of Prey	Alias		Desperate Housewives		News Central	Oprah		Chefs On The Go
MTV Philippines	MTV Jams	Dismissed	MTV Pop Inc.		Boiling Points	Hanging Out At MTV	MTV Get Spotted	TRL		Massive	MTV Play	Diyos		Pimp My Ride	Cribs	MTV Lokal	Brand New	MTV Play	VH1 Video Collections
MYX	Star MYX	Urban MYX	Rock MYX	OPM MYX	My MYX	Take 5	MYX Backtrax	MYX Finals	Mellow MYX	Pop MYX	Urban MYX	MYX Daily Top Ten		MYX Presents		My MYX	OPM MYX	MYX Backtrax	Mellow MYX
CNN		Business International		Larry King Live		World News	World Sport	Business International		World News	World Sport	World News Asia		World News	Global Office	World News Asia		Your World Today	
ESPN												Sportscenter Asia							
Cinemax			Reality Bites			She's Out Of Control (5:15 PM)				Slipping Out				Final Destination 2			Dexys		
Hallmark Channel	Bewitched	Strong Medicine		HCA: The Fairytaler	Sesame Street		Mad About You	Bewitched	Ladies Man	Just Cause		Strong Medicine		Long Shot			Judging Amy (10:35PM)		Just Cause (11:25PM)
Disney Channel	Mr Bean The Animated Series	Totally Spies	Art Attack/Unfaithful Bunny	So Little Time	Buzz Lightyear Of Star Command	Martin Mystery	Totally Spies	Kim Possible	Mr Bean The Animated Series	House Of Mouse	Wonderful World Of Disney			So Little Time	Sabrina, The Animated Series	Mickey Mouse and Friends	Chip N Dale's Rescue Rangers	Wonderful World Of Disney	
Discovery Channel		Hour Asia		Hour China		Wild Discovery		Blueprint For Disaster		Evolver	One Step Beyond	Extreme Engineering		Austin Stevens		The Mummy Detectives		Power Zone	
Cartoon Network	Scooby-Doo Show	The All New Popeye Show		Tom & Jerry Show	The Woody Woodpecker Show	X-Men Evolution	Static Shock	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans	SD Gundam Force	Machine Robo-Rescue	The Looney Tunes Show		The Powerpuff Gels	Johnny Bravo	Time Squad	Thundercats	Xiaolin Showdown	Teen Titans
Nickelodeon	Blues Clues/ What Planet Are You From	Rugrats	Hey Arnold!	My Life As A Teenage Robot/ Right On Top	The Adventures Of Jimmy Neutron	SpongeBob SquarePants	Fairly Odd Parents- New Episode	All That	Naturally Sadie	Sabrina, The Teenage Witch	Drake & Josh	Romeo	All Grown Up	As Told By Ginger	Rocket Power	Chalkzone	The Wild Thornberrys	The Angry Beavers	Are You Afraid of the Dark?
Lifestyle Network	Secret Gardens	The Fixl	Mission Organization	Carol Duvall	Moto Mono	Hot Off The Grill	Good Eats	Extreme Cuisine	Unwrapped	Tyler's Ultimate	El Navs, Weekend		Good Finds	Life & Style		El True Hollywood Story		Road & Track	Back To Basics
Star World		The Bold & The Beautiful		Hollywood Squares	Whose Line Is It Anyway?	Buffy The Vampire Slayer		The Simpsons	The Drew Carey Show	Star News Asia	Friends	Scrubs	Growing Up Gotti	Rockstar	Arrested Development	The Apprentice		Friends	Scrubs
AXN		CSI: Miami (Season 3)		CSI: NY (Season I)		Maximum Exposure (Season II)		The Legend Of Condor Hero	The Legend Of Condor Hero	Cold Squad (Season IV)		Worst Case Scenario		Lost		Lost			
JackTV	Dr. Katz	Just For Laughs	Best The Geeks					Cinematech	Family Guy	Mad TV		Reno 911	Crank Yankers	South Park	The Daily Show With Jon Stewart	Hip Hop Nation	Ride With Funk Master Flex	WWE Velocity	
ETC		Significant Others	Knock First	Blind Date	Fifth Wheel	Elimidate	Change of Heart	Seinfeld	Ambush Makeover	Good Morning Miami	Committed	American Dreams		Queer Eye For The Straight Girl		Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	The Tonight Show With Jay Leno	
HBO		The Freshman (3:15 PM)				Club Paradise			The Last Samurai					Highwaymen	Sex and the City 75 To Market, To Market (10:20PM)	Sex And The City 76 Great Sexpectations (10:50PM)	Sex And The City 77 The Perfect Present (11:20PM)		
Star Movies			Igby Goes Down (3:45 PM)				It Runs In The Family (5:25 PM)			Bruce Almighty (7:15 PM)				Uptown Girls			Joe Dirt (10:35PM)		
EWTN	St. Faustina: Divine Mercy In Our Souls	Angelus (3:15 PM)	Council Of Faith	Faith Factory D	Image Of God	Rosary With Mother Angelica	EWTN Gallery	Gospel Of Life In Health Care	Lord, Have Mercy	EWTN Live With Father Mitch Pacwa		Daily Mass Live		Angelus (9:15 PM)	Suffering Of The God	Angels Of God	Your Vocation God's Call In Your Life	The Journey Home	

TV SCHEDULES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE.



YOUNGER, cheerier Cabalen at SM North Edsa sports white walls and bright lighting plus familiar touches of patterned tiles, glass chandeliers, wood-framed mirrors and Filipino artworks

TANIGUE Escabeche

HUMBA

A merry mix of old and new for a 19-year-old's makeover

FOR 19 years now, the Cabalen chain of restaurants has helped set the standard for excellent Filipino cuisine.

Under the strict supervision of company president Maritel Nievera-Shani, the restaurant has ensured the consistency in taste and quality of its dishes through the freshest ingredients, the most knowledgeable chefs and the most stringent quality control. It has also maintained a pleasant dining atmosphere.

Among the popular and authentic Filipino dishes it serves are *paksiw lechon, rellenong bangus,* Cabalen *morcon, embotido, adobong camaru, gatang kuhol, kilawin bangus, ensaladang pako, inihaw na hito* with special *burong hipon, chicharon balat, kalderetang baka, beringhe,* and the Cabalen original *sisig* that can be served sizzling or as part of the buffet.

Its popular desserts include *leche* flan, *tibok tibok, ube halaya, pitchi-pitchi, maja calabasa* and the all-time favorite make-your-own *halo-halo.*

Cabalen prides itself in serving truly Kapampangan dishes, prepared in the way they have been cooked by previous generations, without shortcuts, and always with the best ingredients.

Now Cabalen gears for a bigger, newer and younger market. So for its 19th anniversary, it has adopted a more contemporary look.

Cabalen unveiled recently its new look in SM North Edsa, where its first branch opened many years ago. More modern-looking, the redesigned Cabalen is a mix of old and the new: White walls and bright lighting give a younger, cheerier appeal while the old-patterned tiles, glass chandeliers, wood-framed mirrors and Filipino artworks lend the familiar Filipino feel.

Architect Joji Salonga did away with doors or other types of enclosure to achieve a more inviting look. The wide open entrance draws the eyes immediately to the bright interiors and the sumptuous buffet Cabalen offers.

The menu also gets a boost, with the restaurant featuring weekly regional dishes on top of its extremely popular Kapampangan specialties.

Other food-loving provinces from north (Ilocos, Bulacan, Quezon) to south of the Philippines will be well-represented in the weeks to come as the menu changes. With the new regional menus, people can go to Cabalen every week and expect something different.

Enjoy the new Cabalen at 2/F SM North Edsa. Visit other Cabalen Restaurants on West Avenue, Quezon City; 4/L SM Megamall Bldg. B; Glorietta 3, Ayala Center, Makati City; 2/F Robinson's Place Manila, Ermita; Starmills Gate, Robinsons Starmills, Pampanga; SM City Mall, San Marcelino, Manila; Brick Road Area, Sta. Lucia East Grand Mall, Cainta, Rizal; and Harrison Village Square, Manila. Call 9135522 and 4219220.

KARE-KARE

BICOL Express

BEHIND the successful chain specializing in Kapampangan food is Maritel Nievera-Shani.

PHOTOS BY RUDY ESPERAS

Specialty coffees get rolling

STARBUCKS Coffee has just launched another first in the specialty coffee retail industry, the Chill Patrol Van.

Alexandra Bustaliño, marketing and promotions manager of Rustan Coffee Corporation, official licensee of Starbucks in the Philippines, said the van was designed to carry Starbucks beverages to people.

It will be brought to events and activities where Starbucks is participating to distribute free beverages to guests.

The Chill Patrol Van will be operated by Team Chill Patrol, a group of young, skilled Starbucks baristas.

Bustaliño said the van would generate awareness for Starbucks' various product offerings by encouraging everyone to sample some of the chain's bestsellers beyond the confines of its stores.

The Starbucks mobile van will also become a roving billboard promoting its newest beverages and current promotions around Metro Manila.